

# US suspends exports of grain to Russia

RGAINS

The United States has decided to suspend the sale of grain to the Soviet Union to show its displeasure over the invasion of Afghanistan. Mr Harold Brown, the American Defence Secretary, left for Peking amid speculation that Washington could start supplying arms to the Chinese, who are helping Afghan resistance groups.

## Envoy flies to China for Afghanistan talks

From Patrick Brogan and Frank Vogl

Washington, Jan 4

President Carter has decided to suspend the sale of grain to the Soviet Union, according to informed sources here, some hours before he was due to make a televised broadcast to the nation.

The Soviet Union had a bad harvest last year, and has contracted to buy 25 million tonnes of grain from the United States this year. The use of the "grain weapon", one of America's arsenal, was chosen this morning at a meeting of Mr Carter's senior advisers.

It involves a sharp reversal of the President's position. In 1976, one of his first election promises was that he would not use the grain weapon. It is believed here that the lorries used in the invasion came from the Karma factory, built with American assistance. It is believed here that the lorries used in the invasion came from the Karma factory. Critics of American trade with the Soviet Union opposed the sale of American technology to the Russians, on the ground that it might be used for anti-American or aggressive purposes. Their case would now seem to be proved, and the chances of any further sales of advanced technology thereby ended.

Mr Carter announced yesterday that ratification of the Salt 2 Treaty would be postponed indefinitely.

Meanwhile, the Administration has consulted congressional leaders about the resumption of arms sales to Pakistan. The danger from across the Khyber Pass is so severe that the Americans have thought it necessary to reaffirm as publicly as possible their commitment to the defence of Pakistan. Envoy resigns: Mr Abdul Hakim Tabibi, Afghanistan's deputy representative to the United Nations, resigned his post today in protest against the Soviet military intervention in his country.

The announcement by Mr Evans that the TGUW had made the strike official was not unexpected. A large number of its members had already stopped work.

Callaghan attack: Mr James Callaghan, who left London for Washington last night, attacked the Conservative Government's handling of the steel strike.

As the Opposition leader walked to his aircraft at Heathrow airport, he said: "I have no doubt I could solve the steel strike and have them back to work within a week."

Mrs Adamson said her three children were with him in New York and he did not fear for their safety.—Kuper.

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## HOME NEWS

## Government's message 'getting through' on tough economic policy

By George Clark  
Political Correspondent

Public support for the Government's tough economic measures is not declining, according to Mr Angus Maude, Paymaster General and minister responsible for coordinating the Government's information services.

As a result of Mrs Thatcher's and the Foreign Secretary's activities in Washington and over Rhodesia, and their latest initiative on the Russian invasion of Afghanistan, they had built up Britain's standing in world affairs.

"The people's reaction to this is very positive. They really do understand that a change is coming about and are rather pleased and proud about it."

In interviews on the BBC radio programme, *The World at One*, Mr Maude rejected a suggestion that the Government was not getting across effectively its message about economic policy and in particular its significance in the steel industry dispute.

"I am satisfied that the message is beginning to get through, but in my view actions speak louder than words and it is only when the results of policies are seen that

people will be totally convinced."

"A year ago, the British Leyland ballot could not possibly have gone the way it did. A year ago there would have been no chance of the miners voting down a recommendation from their executive to go on strike over a pay deal," Mr Maude said.

There was "not the slightest doubt", he said, that the message was getting through. Parliamentary and local by-elections and political opinion polls, did not suggest that the public reaction had been very bad, considering the unpopular things that the Government had had to do.

If we could become competitive in our industries, if we could improve our productivity, and the Government would do everything to create the climate in which that could happen, we could begin to create new wealth and new jobs and people would see the results of the Government's policy.

Mrs Thatcher, he said, would be talking on those subjects in an important television interview in the *Weekend World* programme tomorrow.

## Praise for Mrs Thatcher defended by preacher

From Arthur Osman

A Methodist minister said yesterday that he did not regret preaching from the pulpit on the virtues of Mrs Margaret Thatcher as Prime Minister.

The Rev Brian Cooke, aged 45, circuit minister at Netherfield, Dudley, West Midlands, said that his sermon on mark the new year had not pleased all his congregation. A few had walked out and one woman had stopped the sermon and addressed the congregation herself while Mr Cooke stayed in the pulpit.

Mr Cooke said: "I do not know who she was, but one of my lay preachers also spoke out. I think it is all very sad.

because at the end of a decade I thought it appropriate to mention social and political problems which affect us all. I wanted to speak about those we have all faced during the past 10 years."

I support some Conservative policies, but not all, and I particularly praised Mrs Thatcher for her character and forthrightness. I do not make a habit of talking about politics from the pulpit, but the occasion seemed right.

The Rev Nigel Gilson, chairman of the Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury Methodist district, said: "This is a domestic matter and ought to be left as such. A minister chooses and prepares his own material."

## Businessman plans flight to a record

By Sara Bonner

Next week a London reinsurance broker hopes to travel around the world not in 80 days but in under two, entirely on scheduled passenger flights.

If he succeeds, Mr David Springbett, aged 41, will knock seven and a half hours off the record for a circumnavigation of the world on scheduled flights, established in 1978 by two Australian journalists.

Mr Springbett's 23,068-mile route involves more stops than theirs did, but he thinks his juggling with timetables in the ABC *World Airways Guide* shows more "entrepreneurial dash", as well as giving him the fastest route with the best chance of not going wrong.

He plans to take off from Los Angeles at 7 pm on Tuesday and fly to London, Bahrain, Singapore, Bangkok, Manila, Tokyo, Honolulu and back to Los Angeles, hoping to arrive at 5.05 pm on Thursday, a round trip of about 46 hours, compared with the current record of 53 hours, 34 minutes.

Mr Springbett will fly in Concorde for part of his journey and among the air lines he will be flying with are SAS, Pan Am, Northwest Orient and Thai International.

His tight schedule does not allow for much delay in arrivals and take-offs, but he has taken

Mr David Springbett: His attempt on a world record takes off on Tuesday.

precautions in the event of fog, strikes or other hazards.

If he misses a connection and the attempt is abandoned, he has booked the same trip for the next week to ensure a second chance of breaking the record.

Mr Springbett says he is one of the most travelled business travellers. His total mileage to date is 2,373,026 on 1,555 flights. Last year he travelled 303,395 miles.

He regards this as good training for the 46 hours or so he will be flying. Jet lag does not terrify him, though he admits it finds it difficult to sleep on aircraft. To question "myth", he will be medically examined by British Airways before and after the trip.

As he is travelling first class he expects to eat well

## Girl killed when table lamp fell into bath

By Our Political Correspondent

A girl aged seven who died on Thursday evening after a table lamp fell into the water while she was having a bath was named yesterday as Simone Kirkham, of Brandwood Road, King's Heath, Birmingham. She was in the bath with her younger sister.

Hearing screams, Mrs Kirkham, the girl's mother, ran into the bathroom and tried to revive her daughter.

The Midland Electricity Board declined to comment yesterday on the accident, but board officials are preparing a report for the coroner. It is understood that during rewiring the bathroom was temporarily lit by a table lamp on a window sill.

**MP condemns Mr Powell's attack on Foreign Office**

By Harry Colombek  
Chess Correspondent

person to maintain that over the years the contribution of his erstwhile Foreign Office colleagues to British interests had been uniformly beneficial.

"I am, however, aware that for more than a decade the diplomatic service has worked very hard to educate the rest of the world about the realities of Northern Ireland."

Mr Whitney said that if Mr Powell had any evidence of what he had called Foreign Office "skulduggery" designed to ensure that the province was "offered up as a sacrifice", many people would be interested to hear about it.

"It really is not enough to rely on a generalized smear."

In an open letter to Mr Powell, commenting on his speech at Londonderry, Co Down, on Thursday, in which he described the Foreign Office as "that nest of vipers", that nursery of traitors", Mr Whitney said he would be the last

to admit that he had called Foreign Office "skulduggery".

Dr Murray said: "The other sites of civilian deaths, pubs, streets and other buildings, are anonymous, impersonal places that an individual can usually avoid if he wishes. Your home is the one place above all where you should be safe."

"It seems likely that the shock effect is in many cases one of the killers' objectives."

"In these cases the victim appears to have been singled out, there has been a deliberate decision to kill a particular person at a particular location. Yet where the victim has been a civilian the choice has not

## Sea claims another three from Buckie

By Alan Hamilton

The sea has claimed three more sons of Buckie. A third boat in seven months has gone down, bringing to 16 the number who have sailed out of the busy, prosperous, fishing port in north-east Scotland and have not come home.

Early yesterday the 56ft trawler, *Bounteous*, on its first trip to the rich Cornish mackerel grounds after the new year holiday, rounded less than a mile off Mousehole, near Penzance and sank within a minute of capsizing. Three of her crew, including her skipper, were lost, and three saved.

A search by the Penlee life-boat, a flotilla of other craft and helicopters from RAF Culdrose proved fruitless.

The three men lost were Mr Edward Phimister, the skipper, aged 30; married with two children; Mr Russell Hillier, aged 27; and Mr Joseph Bowie, aged 26, all of Buckie, Grampian.

Three others of the crew were pitched into the water and rescued by another Scottish fishing vessel, the *Loranthus*. They were Mr Alexander Phimister, aged 22, the skipper's brother; Mr Alexander Sammon, aged 24; and Mr Alexander Murray, aged 19, whose father is chairman of the fishermen's association in Buckie.

Mr Murray, who has been a fisherman for two years, disappeared on his first trip with the *Bounteous*. Yesterday his father was at the drowned skipper's home in Buckie, commanding the family.

There is as yet no explanation for the capsizing. Rescuers



The survivors from the Buckie trawler, *Bounteous* (from left) Alexander Murray, Alexander Phimister and Alexander Sammon, recovering at Newlyn Seamen's Mission.

said there were only moderate seas at the time.

Buckie, a small port on the southern shores of the Moray Firth with a population of 7,000, which lives almost exclusively from boats and fish, has reason to fear the vengeance of the sea. In June 1978, the *Corinthia* sank off Orkney with the loss of six men. Then, last month, the *Buckie* boat, *Ocean Monarch*, disappeared in the North Sea, seven men with it.

It is a heavy toll for a small town, whose fishing fleet numbers a hundred boats.

In the past two seasons the fishermen of Buckie, in common with their brethren in the wild,

other Scottish ports, have been driven by a fishing ban from their traditional herring grounds to seek white fish off the Shetlands and Norway, and many have changed their hand at the Cornish mackerel, a long sail but a profitable one, with East European factory ships at anchor waiting to buy.

For the modern trawlers of Buckie, used to the angry waters of the northern North Sea, Cornwall was an unexpected voyage. But for the *Bounteous*, barely a year old, and for three Buckie families, it was a grim reminder that fish is the last food that Western man still hunts in the wild.

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## Moving of imported steel blacked at two ports

From Nicholas Timmins

The Transport and General Workers' Union yesterday blacked movements of imported steel out of the east coast ports of King's Lynn and Boston, which between them handle about 500,000 tonnes a year.

The blacking was imposed after a meeting in King's Lynn between local TGWU officials and steel workers on a flying picket from Corby and Sheffield steel works.

Despite the arrival of the picket at 7 am, the steel workers believe that about 100 tonnes of steel was slipped out of the docks through a gate they did not know of before the meeting took place.

But Mr Roger Ward, the King's Lynn TGWU district secretary, and Mr Barry Cooper, the Boston district secretary, said after the meeting that no further imports would move out of the docks during the strike.

The Corby picket is likely to return on Monday in case it does not move.

Two 600-ton shipments from Germany and Belgium are also due into Boston on Monday, and Mr John Alswell, the assistant port manager, said that in view of the TGWU decision he expected the steel to be unloaded but not moved out.

For those ports, particularly King's Lynn, where steel makes up 25 to 30 per cent of the port's trade, the embargo could be serious if the strike is prolonged.

The pickets attacked the move as "rubbish".

Picketing stepped up: Long traffic queues built up at BSC's huge steel works at Runcorn, Cheshire, as steelmen stepped up their picketing yesterday (the Press Association reports).

It took some employees more than an hour to get into the plant, as the queue stretched for more than half-a-mile. Scottish steel workers do not end their new year break until Monday and yesterday's action was aimed at staff, maintenance men and other non-TGWC workers.

The pickets were unhappy over Thursday's suggestion by Mr William Sirs, general secretary of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, that the strike could be called off if an advance payment was made on BSC's proposal for local productive schemes.

The pickets attacked the move as "rubbish".

Crucial pay talks between the BL management and unions representing 90,000 car workers reached a "total disagreement" last night after more than 100 days of negotiations spread over the past three months. But both sides refused to move to a total breakdown.

Mr Sirs, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union and leader of the union side on BL's joint negotiating committee, said: "We have achieved only minor changes in the company's proposals on new working practices.

"They will not budge on pay. We have exhausted our mandate as negotiators and must go back for further instructions."

He regarded that proposal as second best to cancelling the inquiry in favour of a national inquiry at a later date.

He cautioned anyone against believing the inquiry was considering merely the temporary intrusion of small-scale industrial use into a remote and unspoilt area.

## The 1949 Cabinet papers - 4

## Admirals saved Royal Marines and Wrens

By Peter Hennessy

It is a brave man who takes on a great established national institution, as Sir Kenneth Berrill found in 1977, when his Central Policy Review Staff suggested ways in which the Foreign Office might arrange its "special establishments" closed down.

The Admiralty papers released at the Public Record Office this week under the 30-year rule reveal the horror with which the Royal Navy greeted a senior civil servant who had the temerity to suggest that the Royal Marines and the Women's Royal Naval Service, the Wrens, should be disbanded as an economy measure.

The Admiralty objection to the abolition of the Royal Marines as part of the naval service is based partly on the view that this step would affect adversely the fighting efficiency of the Navy and personnel damage to the Navy and of the public generally that would result from such a measure.

A contributory reason is that the Royal Marines include provisions for bands required for the naval service.

The Prime Minister, Mr Clement Attlee, chaired a special Cabinet committee, GEN 296, on Armed Forces savings on July 5, which, after a rambling discussion, contented itself with the general recommendation that "all concerned should address themselves to the possibilities of effecting economies". In November the matter came back to the Cabinet's defence committee.

In another brief for Lord Hall, next to the Harwood recommendation of disbandment, the Admiralty had written: "Royal Marines and Wrens are not to be abolished and this point does not now arise". The Royal Marines were safe, at least for another 25 years, when their existence was once more under discussion as part of the Labour Government's defence review of 1974. The public will have to wait until January 2005, to see how they say off the threat on that occasion.

Monday: The cold war comes home

## Failure to agree in BL pay talks

By Clifford Webb

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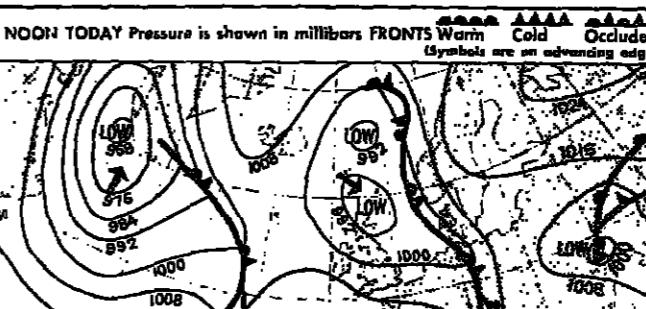
He cautioned anyone against believing the inquiry was considering merely the temporary intrusion of small-scale industrial use into a remote and unspoilt area.

## Trains delayed by derailment

High Speed Train services between London and south Wales were affected yesterday when six empty freight wagons were derailed outside Parkway station, Bristol. The main line was blocked in both directions for several hours.

Electronic signalling and point equipment was damaged.

## Weather forecast and recordings



Today Sun rises: 6.45 am Sun sets: 4.45 pm Moon sets: 9.42 am

Last quarter: January 10. Lighting up: 4.36 pm to 7.35 am

High water: London Bridge, 4.39 am; 7.0m; Dover, 12.28 am; 6.2m; Hull, 7.59 am; 6.8m; Liverpool, 1.24 am; 8.6m; 1.30pm, 3.6m; 1.30pm, 1

## HOME NEWS

**Mr Carlisle denies cut in college places**From Diana Geddes  
Education Correspondent  
Durham

Mr Mark Carlisle, Secretary of State for Education and Science, denied yesterday that government spending plans would mean fewer opportunities for school-leavers to study for degrees in universities and polytechnics.

He said that government plans for the next few years provided only for a maintenance of the present number of places in higher education for home students at a time when the size of the 18-year-old age group was continuing to increase, but pointed out that fewer school-leavers were wanting to embark on degrees courses.

The proportion of 18-year-olds going into higher education had dropped from 14.2 to 11.8 per cent over the past seven years, he said in a speech on the final day of the North of England conference on education in Durham.

The most probable explanation was that many able youngsters with O and A level qualifications had been going straight into jobs in industry and commerce. "This does not seem to me necessarily a bad thing," Mr Carlisle said.

"I believe that school-leavers who want to go into higher education will continue to have as good an opportunity as at present," he added. Places in non-advanced further education, which had increased by 60 per cent since 1971, were to be allowed to increase still further under Government spending plans.

Economic constraints would increase the need for a rationalisation of provision between the university and the maintained further and higher education sectors, he said. Each sector should concentrate on its existing strengths. In the universities there would mean a renewed emphasis on academic objectives.

Turning to the curriculum in schools, Mr Carlisle said that "we cannot afford to maintain the status quo". The Government, in conjunction with its partners in the education service, would have to work out what would constitute "a realistic and responsible policy in the light of national and local needs".

(On Tuesday the Government will publish its views on a national framework for the curriculum in schools and a discussion paper on the curriculum, drawn up by the Schools Inspectorate.)

Mr Carlisle was at pains to emphasize that the Government was not seeking to dictate in detail what must be taught in schools. He believed that the Education Act, 1944, was right in giving control of the curriculum to the local authorities, and that they were right in delegating much of that responsibility to individual schools and their teachers.

Nevertheless, the Government had a duty to satisfy itself that the work of schools matched national needs. It believed, for example, that all pupils should study mathematics, English, a science, and a modern language, up to the age of 16.

One of his biggest worries was the serious shortage of teachers of mathematics, the physical sciences, craft, design and technology, and modern languages, he said. He did not believe there were any quick or easy answers, but he did feel that local authorities could make better use of existing specialist teachers in schools.

Thirty-eight per cent of qualified mathematics teachers, 57 per cent of qualified physics teachers and 30 per cent of qualified chemistry teachers were not teaching their specialist subjects.

Mr Carlisle said he totally rejected the "philosophy of despair", which argued that because we could not have more resources we could not have teachers to provide for the kind of developments that a nationally agreed core curriculum would require.

**Fire at Uppingham School does £50,000 damage**From Our Correspondent  
Leicester

Fire swept through a boarding house at a public school near Leicester early yesterday, causing considerable damage.

Mr Coll Macdonald, headmaster of Uppingham co-educational school, said: "The fire has gutted both floors of The Hall, and the damage could total between £50,000 and £100,000."

Fortunately the staff and the 50 boys who are usually in the building were not there because of the Christmas holiday.

It was the third fire in three

**Archbishop and bishop plead for Bangladeshi**

A Bangladeshi man deported from Britain on Monday should be allowed to return as soon as possible, the Bishop of Liverpool, the Right Rev David Sheppard, and the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Liverpool, the Most Rev Derek Worlock, said yesterday.

The appeal by Mr Gias Uddin, aged 19, to be remitted to Britain should be examined carefully and expeditiously so that he could return as soon as possible to his family and friends, they said in a statement.

The Home Office said he was an illegal immigrant and not the man he claimed to be.

**The state of the professions—4: Growing concern about mistrust**

By Ian Bradley

Certain concerns are common to the professions. The poor level of general education in schools is one: confidentiality is another. Social workers and doctors in particular are increasingly worried about misuse of private records and the wider accessibility that computerization will bring.

There is also general concern that, prompted by politicians and the communications media, the public is becoming less inclined to accept professional judgments and increasingly taking recourse to litigation against professional practitioners.

That may not be a bad thing. There has long been concern about how far professional associations such as the Law Society, with their function of protecting their members' interests, can adequately fulfil their other role of following up the public's complaints and censuring misconduct.

However, many professional people are worried about the effect of public mistrust. Mr Dennis Walker, a former pre-

ident of the Incorporated Association of Architects and Surveyors, regards the main threat to members' livelihoods as coming from increasing and often vexatious litigation by clients.

The British Medical Association is worried about the recent decision to allow the Health Services Ombudsman to inquire clinical decisions.

The BMA naturally welcomes Lord Denning's recent judgment in which he found an obstetrician not liable for the brain damage suffered by a baby he had delivered, that in a professional man an error of judgment was not negligence. But it is concerned that, like other recent judgments by the Master of the Rolls, it may be overruled.

Perhaps the greatest concern among the professions is the sense that they lack a strong collective voice with which to speak to the Government.

The point was clearly made in a letter to *The Times* in March, 1977, when the heads of 11 professional institutions attributed the suffering of the

professions through incomes policies to the fact that the Government had been unable to formulate policy "without including the professions in the process of consultation".

An attempt to form the profession into a more effective lobby was first made in 1976. Lord Hallsham of St Marylebone asked: "If there can be a Confederation of British Industry, why can there not be a confederation of British professional associations?"

In 1978 a rather more successful attempt was made.

A group of independent associations that were registered as trade unions, including the BMA, the United Kingdom Association of Professional Engineers, and the Association of Polytechnic Teachers, formed the Managerial and Professional Staff Liaison Group after they had unsuccessfully made individual representations to the Government about pay and taxation.

"In Britain, people representing the professions and management are lucky to see a junior minister," Dr Gillibrand says.

Although it helped to kill a private member's Bill that sought to allow the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service to ignore the views of workers who did not belong to trade unions.

Dr Maurice Gillibrand, chairman of the group, says that the present Government is taking more notice of its views.

Although he hopes that with a single common voice the professions may make more impact on the Government, Dr Gillibrand has been most struck since he became chairman by the low esteem in which the professions are held in Britain compare with their status on the Continent.

The group is affiliated to the European Confederation of Cadres. When the confederation met in Rome recently, delegates had an audience with the Pope and a reception with the President of Italy.

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*Concluded*

Leading article, page 13

**Worried associations seek new public image**

By Ian Bradley

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Leading article, page 13

**Farming 'quango' given reprieve**By Hugh Clayton  
Agriculture Correspondent

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**2,000 aim for a £60,000 bullseye**

By Frances Gibb

With 150 dartboards lined up side by side and a 50ft long bar stacked with 20,000 pints of beer, the old and new Royal Horticultural Halls in London were turned yesterday into two vast public houses for the start of the sixth British open darts championships.

A record 2,000 competitors, mostly from Britain and some from 12 other countries, have gathered for three days to try their hand at what is one of Britain's most popular pastimes, with an estimated five million regular players.

With the lure of prize money totalling £60,000, the championships, sponsored by Watneys and MV Dart, the sports goods manufacturers, show that darts are no longer just a flick of the wrist over a pint.

The television rights, track-suits emblazoned with names instead of the traditional pub attire of tatty jeans, and the sponsorship lend strength to the boast of Mr Oily Croft, general secretary of the British Darts Organisation, that darts are now a recognized and professional sport.

The man who put the game on the sports map, Mr Craft, has seen darts-playing grow in 10 years to its present quota of 20,000 professionals and semi-professionals, who can earn up to £50,000 a year, the setting up of national teams, world championships and the influx of women.

This year women account for a quarter of the entrants, including one of just two professional women players, Miss Jan Dewan, aged 22, of Powys, who started playing when working as a barmaid. "It was something to do before people came in," she says.

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It was the third fire in three

**Archbishop and bishop plead for Bangladeshi**

A Bangladeshi man deported from Britain on Monday should be allowed to return as soon as possible, the Bishop of Liverpool, the Right Rev David Sheppard, and the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Liverpool, the Most Rev Derek Worlock, said yesterday.

The appeal by Mr Gias Uddin, aged 19, to be remitted to Britain should be examined carefully and expeditiously so that he could return as soon as possible to his family and friends, they said in a statement.

The Home Office said he was an illegal immigrant and not the man he claimed to be.

**Delay on housing cash allocations worries councils**

From Our Local Government Correspondent

The Association of District Councils has asked for an urgent meeting with Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, because of the Government's delay in telling local authorities details of housing capital allocations for the next year.

In a letter to Mr Heseltine yesterday, Mr Ian McCallum, chairman of the association, said that authorities must know now where they stood for the next financial year. "Otherwise programmes will be disrupted and the efficient use of available resources severely impeded."

**Decree for Lady Ednam**

Lady Ednam, second wife of the Earl of Dudley's heir, was granted a decree nisi in the London Divorce Court yesterday. She cited unreasonable behaviour by her husband, aged 32, whom she married in 1976.

Counsel added that Mr

Prices claim: Price rises on foods in surplus will be curbed when EEC farm ministers meet in the spring. Mr Richard Butler, president of the National Farmers' Union of England and Wales, said

Acceptance of such a curb would be the only concession offered by British farmers to critics of EEC farm policy, he said at a union meeting.

"As long as inflation persists there will be a continuing need to increase our prices to meet increased costs," he said.

"Adjusting prices to meet higher costs cannot be a once-a-year exercise; it is now a continuing process."

Mr Gordon Bramwell, printer for the *Nottingham Observer* and the *Tatler and Bystander* magazine, for 10 years, said that advertisers were being "rooked".

Mr Bramwell, who was shop steward for the National Geographical Association, said that finally he sent evidence, including photographs, of fake circulation figures to his solicitor. The police interviewed Guy Alexander Wayne, aged 71, managing director, of Colston Bassett Hall, near Nottingham.

Mr Wayne and

## AFGHANISTAN

# Mr Karmal gives promise of new constitution soon and attacks US-inspired 'hullabaloo' over coup

From Michael Binyon  
Moscow, Jan 4

The Afghan Foreign Minister flew to Moscow today for a "cordial and comradely" talk with Mr Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, before going on to New York to attend the Security Council meeting on Afghanistan, called by Britain yesterday.

Mr Shah Muhammad Dost declared before he left Kabul that his country strongly opposed any discussion of the "Afghan question" which, he said, did not exist.

He said the entire Afghan people welcomed the Soviet assistance. To distort this fact or misinterpret Afghan policy constituted in itself interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs.

Today the Russians denounced the Security Council meeting, and said the Americans had only been able to arrange it by putting pressure on small countries and collecting signatures from their military allies and dictatorships such as those in Chile, Haiti and Honduras.

Tass news agency said the letter was also signed by China,

which recently invaded Vietnam and was now virtually the strongest member of Nato.

The purpose of the meeting, a commentary said, was to denounce Afghanistan's peaceful foreign policy and undermine Soviet-Afghan friendship. It was also intended to divert international attention from the aggressive actions against other countries by the United States and its allies.

Meanwhile Mr Babrak Karmal, the Afghan leader, brought to power by the Soviet-backed coup, made his first public appearance in Kabul today and thanked the Russians for their military aid, which he said was "fully in keeping with the will of the Afghan people".

At a press conference, attended exclusively by East European and local journalists and reported today by Tass, Mr Karmal said: "Soviet foreign policy was based on peaceful co-existence and equal cooperation with other states."

"Soviet-Afghan relations are a vivid example of relations of the new type among equal and independent states," he said. The "propaganda" hullabaloo

raised by imperialist circles against the alleged interference of the USSR in Afghanistan's affairs was a "premeditated provocation, an obvious lie". The United States was searching for an excuse for its own defeat.

President Carter had declared that Amin was the lawful President of Afghanistan. But Mr Karmal argued, it was known that former President Taraki had been elected president by the people, and Taraki was killed by "murderer Amin".

"It can be asked if the person who killed the head of state elected by the people can be a 'legal' President?" he said. Both Tass and the Afghan news agency said after Mr Taraki's overthrow that he had been suffering for some days from an "incurable disease" which had killed him.

Later, Khomeini supporters tried to stage a revolutionary raid on the home of Ayatollah Shariat-Madari. The two sides exchanged volleys of stones and bricks in the narrow alleys leading to the Ayatollah's house but the police kept them apart.

At least 10 people were treated for injuries received in the clashes. Many more were on the streets with cuts and head injuries.

Qom's main shrine was closed. Ayatollah Khomeini ordered shops to shut and Revolutionary Guards sealed off streets and blocked the main bridge into the centre of the town.

The Azerbaijanis smashed shop windows and burnt rubber, shouting slogans against Iran's new Islamic constitution, which gives sweeping powers to Ayatollah Khomeini. They claimed that their leader was a prisoner in his own home.

The pro-Khomeini militants distributed leaflets alleging that Ayatollah Shariat-Madari was an agent of the former Shah's secret police Savak and the United States Central Intelligence Agency. As they marched on his house earlier, they chanted that it was a "nest of spies", like the occupied United States Embassy in Tehran.

In Tabriz, the capital of Azerbaijan, supporters of Ayatollah Shariat-Madari today burnt photographs of Ayatollah Khomeini after occupying the Tabriz broadcasting centre.—Reuter and Agence France-Presse.

Demands for envoy: The State Department said in Washington that Mr Bruce Laingen, the American chargé d'affaires in Tehran, was still at the Iranian Foreign Ministry today despite demands by students to transfer him to the occupied United States Embassy for questioning.

There were also reports of students' demands that Air Force Lieutenant-Colonel David Roeder, held at the embassy should be tried for bombing Vietnam during the Vietnam war.—Reuter.

Waldheim failure: Dr Kurt Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary-General left Tehran today.

In an interview in Zurich on his way to New York, Dr Waldheim said he believed his mission had been worthwhile.

"I think it helped a lot because it has given me a much clearer picture of what is going on in Iran," he told ABC Television. He had discussed several ideas for solving the crisis with Iran's revolutionary leaders, but he gave no details.

Asked by reporters whether he met Ayatollah Khomeini Dr Waldheim replied: "No." Asked them whether he regretted this he answered "No, I do not", but declined to expand.—Reuter and AP.

In between the hardliners' (Czechoslovakia, East Germany and Bulgaria) prompt support and Romania's outright condemnation are the Poles and Hungarians who air their disapproval by offering their support rather late. The Warsaw Pact is clearly suffering from the repercussions of an international act that neither Poland nor Hungary would willingly condone.

Today, the Romanian party newspaper *Scinteia* said without mentioning Russia that failure to show respect for the independence of other nations might lead to a further worsening of the international situation with consequences no one could foresee. Domination was a threat to detente, it added.

Romania was the only Warsaw Pact country to condemn sharply and explicitly the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968, as well as the Vietnam invasion of Kampuchea. However today's condemnation seemed more muted because of a deep anxiety felt in Bucharest over what is seen as Moscow's increasingly aggressive mood.

A sharp condemnation of the invasion of Afghanistan came today from Tirana. Albania accused Moscow of "aggressive and fascist behaviour".

## EEC thinks out response to invasion

From Michael Hornsby  
Brussels, Jan 4

Talks on the European Community's response to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan have not gone beyond the stage of exchanges of information between member states.

Whatever decision is finally taken, it is likely to represent a lowest common denominator of national attitudes given the markedly different tone of reaction in Community capitals.

The French have been involved in military interventions in three African countries—the Central African empire, Zaire and Chad, and Belgium, too, took part in the 1978 Zaire operation aimed at propping up General Mobutu's regime.

Contrary to earlier reports no decision had yet been taken to withhold food aid from Afghanistan, but a "temporary suspension" will be considered. Boycott opposed: M Jean-Pierre Soisson, the Minister for Youth, Sport and Leisure explained in Paris last night that France did not support the idea of a boycott of the Moscow Olympics.

## Pakistan doubts about US arms

From Richard Wiggin  
Islamabad, Jan 4

When Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, comes here in about 10 days after visiting Turkey, Oman, Saudi Arabia and perhaps India, he will have to reassure not only the regime of President Mohamed Zia ul-Haq after the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

A shaky Pakistani public will also want to know whether the West's response, exemplified by his visit, can help them or not.

Since the military regime has banned the political parties to temporary oblivion, it is difficult to assess the feelings of a people worrying whether they are next on the Russians' list, and whether arms supplied by the United States and financed by the Saudis can give an effective answer.

Some Western diplomats are finding Pakistanis who have been friendly until now expressing doubts, not merely about how quickly the Carter Administration can come through with tanks and/or aircraft, but whether Pakistan is itself in a position to stand up to modern Soviet weapons.

One problem facing the West is that any large-scale delivery of arms reinforces a military regime unpopular with wide sections of Pakistani society.

It is not only the supporters of the late Mr Zulfikar Bhutto, the executed former Prime Minister, but also those of almost all the banned political parties who feel they could

## Warsaw Pact unable to speak with one voice

From Dessa Trevisan  
Belgrade, Jan 4

Disagreements arising from the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan have strained the unity of the Warsaw Pact. Today, Romania implicitly condemned it by calling for an end of the "policy of domination" and appealing for an end to violations of national independence.

By contrast, Poland came out and obviously rather reluctantly in support of the Soviet invasion. The Hungarian coverage of the Afghan adventure has relied mainly on quotes from Soviet press reports.

In between the hardliners' (Czechoslovakia, East Germany and Bulgaria) prompt support and Romania's outright condemnation are the Poles and Hungarians who air their disapproval by offering their support rather late. The Warsaw Pact is clearly suffering from the repercussions of an international act that neither Poland nor Hungary would willingly condone.

In fact, yesterday Mr Edward Gierk, the Polish party leader, expressed the hope that Afghanistan would "return to the

the ideals of the April revolution", aiming to give express support to the role the Soviet troops are playing in propelling the new regime there.

Last week, President Ceausescu of Romania, limited his criticism to a vague condemnation saying that nations should not interfere in the affairs of others.

Today, the Romanian party newspaper *Scinteia* said without mentioning Russia that failure to show respect for the independence of other nations might lead to a further worsening of the international situation with consequences no one could foresee. Domination was a threat to detente, it added.

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## OVERSEAS

### Street riots by rival Ayatollahs' followers

Qom, Iran, Jan 4.—Street riots broke out in Qom, the Muslim religious centre, today, and Revolutionary Guards used tear gas to prevent rival demonstrators from attacking the homes of rival religious leaders.

Clashes occurred this morning and despite appeals for calm from both Ayatollah Khomeini and Ayatollah Kazem Shariat-Madari, the leader of the Turkish-speaking Azerbaijanis, there was further rioting in the afternoon.

Security forces sealed streets around the home of Ayatollah Khomeini, fired in the air and launched tear gas grenades to push back an advancing crowd of Azerbaijanis armed with stones and iron bars, who have converged on Qom in recent days.

Later, Khomeini supporters tried to stage a revolutionary raid on the home of Ayatollah Shariat-Madari. The two sides exchanged volleys of stones and bricks in the narrow alleys leading to the Ayatollah's house but the police kept them apart.

At least 10 people were treated for injuries received in the clashes. Many more were on the streets with cuts and head injuries.

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Indian poll protest: Angry Harijans, formerly known as Untouchables, display their ballot papers in Bagpat, Uttar Pradesh, claiming they had been prevented physically from voting by

higher caste Hindus in Thursday's general election. Bagpat is in the constituency of Mr Charan Singh, the caretaker Prime Minister, and India's Election Commission has ordered an inquiry into the alleged poll rigging.

## Defiant Israeli minister holds on to his land

From Christopher Walker  
Jerusalem, Jan 4

A serious political scandal is growing in Israel over the continual refusal of Mr Ariel Sharon, the Agriculture Minister, to comply with Government guidelines on private interests and relinquishing control of his large farm in the Negev Desert.

The matter is likely to come to a head later this month when the Cabinet is due to discuss the recent findings of a legal committee headed by a former Tel Aviv judge which found Mr Sharon's ownership of his farm "totally irreconcilable" with his holding of the agriculture portfolio.

All but Mr Sharon agreed to abide by the regulations. These were not regarded as overly strict in that they allowed commercial interests to be transferred to next of kin who, in many cases, have been actively engaged in administering the businesses.

He said: "We seem to have run out of time. We know we will not have all of them in assembly areas or rendezvous points by tonight. It has been partly a communications problem. It is no good a British or Australian soldier going out and trying to persuade these men to come along. This can only be done by their leaders."

Colonel Hubble

arrived

by

helicopter

at Alpha assembly area with his Zanzibar counterpart, known simply as Comrade Mao. They appeared an odd duo—Colonel Hubble with his strong Australian accent and down-to-earth views, and the Marxist Comrade Mao dressed in camouflage Chinese fatigues and carrying an AK47 automatic.

But Colonel Hubble said his

had

established

a

good

working

relationship

and even exchanged

light-hearted

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inqui  
-VashIt found me in New York,  
and it was from John Barton,  
one of the directors of the  
Royal Shakespeare Company."It now looks as if I shall  
almost certainly do what has  
long been my great ambition,"

John wrote,

"namely a cycle of all the Trojan War and

House of Atreus plays . . . 9 or

12 plays in all, so the project

will take up either three or four

evenings."

He wanted me to

translate and co-adapt the

texts for a production in 1980

at the Royal Shakespeare

Company at the Aldwych

Theatre in London. My first

impulse was to run.

I had not always felt this

way. At Oxford, as an under-

graduate and a stage-struck

writer, I had been grateful to

the Greeks. I had studied them

diligently, their language, their

history, their philosophy, and

in return they had given me a

helping hand into the theatre.

By translating Euripides' *Hippolytus*

for the hundredth

major production of the OUDS

I had been introduced to pro-

fessional actors and directors

for the first time. Later, I had

been asked by the BBC to

translate the first version of a

Greek drama to be broadcast

on television. And later still I

had worked on Euripides' *Bacchae*

for productions in Lon-

don and the United States. All

these translations had been

published or performed some-

where, and each time the work

had fired my imagination or

brought me to a new turn in

my career.

In those days I even set

myself up as the champion of

Greek drama, making a great

fuss about how misunderstood

these plays had been by every-

one from Aristotle to Gilbert

Murray and even twentieth-

century academics and critics.

As time went on, however,

I dropped the role of self-

appointed guardian of the

Greeks and saw them more as

a distraction from real

work, even a threat. If I asso-

ciated with them too much, I

thought, I would be typecast as

a classicist and a translator. I

tried to shake them off.

And now here was this letter

from John Barton, proposing

not just one translation of

a single play but an adaptation

of upwards of a dozen, telling

a story that spanned

centuries—seons—of legendary

history, and including works

that had seldom if ever been

given a contemporary profes-

sional production. There was

really no way out. I said yes.

I turned to the plays and

started to absorb the enormity

of the task. First, the story.

The story defies synopsis, yet

it had to be grasped whole and

held in our grip if we were to

succeed. Boiled down to its

essentials, this is the tale we

were telling.

The time—a legendary past

of pre-history. The states of

Greece have mobilized an army

to attack the city of Troy, far

in the east. Troy has abduced

the king's son, Paris, who has

stolen a Queen of Greece, Helen. But

the Greeks are stuck, their

fleet became dead for lack of a

wind. So, persuaded by a seer

and magician, they offer a

human sacrifice—Iphigenia,

the daughter of Agamemnon,

Commander in Chief of the

Greek armies. It works. After

Iphigenia is killed, the winds

blow, the Greeks set sail, and

after 10 years of fighting, dur-

ing which their greatest hero

Achilles is killed, they capture

Troy.

Their troubles, however, are

only just beginning. Storms

scatter their fleet; the cap-

tured Trojan women are bitter

and rebellious; one plots the

death of the son of a prince

loyal to the Greeks; another, a

mad priestess, foretells the

murder of their king, Agamem-

non, and she is proved right.

When he reaches Greece Aga-

memnon is killed by his own

wife, Clytemnestra, in revenge

for the sacrifice of their

daughter 10 years ago.

Meanwhile, Agamemnon's

brother Menelaus, whose wife,

Helen, was the immediate

cause of all this, is blown off

the course and shipwrecked on

the shores of Egypt. There he dis-

covers that the Helen he

thought he had rescued from

Troy is really a ghost, a

double. The true Helen has

been in Egypt all this time.

One of the gods spirited her

away and left her there. She

never went to Troy at all.

Back in Greece . . . but wait

a minute. By now I was reel-

ing. We were only half-way

through the story. Still to

come were several more mur-

# Saturday Review

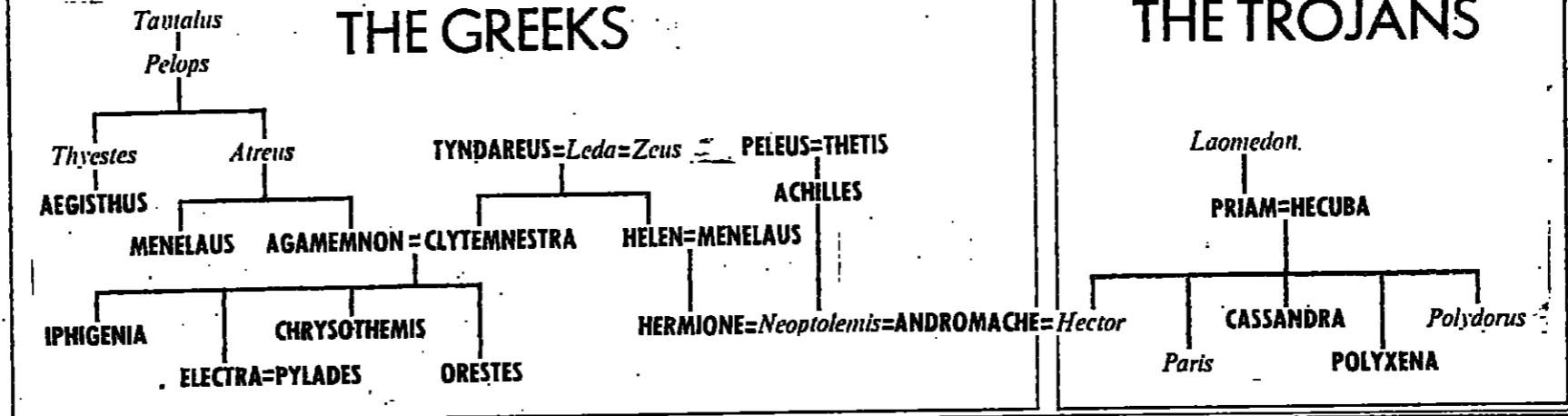
مکانات الایمنی

# The Greeks

A fortnight today the Royal Shakespeare Company begin a three-month season devoted to the Greeks. The project is on the scale of the Shakespeare cycle, *The Wars of the Roses*, 16 years ago. This time John Barton has been joined by Kenneth Cavander and together they have adapted ten Greek plays into a three-part cycle, which tells the story of the house of Agamemnon and the Trojan War. Kenneth Cavander here describes how the cycle has come into being and how the Greeks have haunted him all his life.



**The last scene  
(above) of a  
performance of  
*Agamemnon*  
at Balliol  
College, Oxford.  
And "family"  
trees, right:**



ders, a wild act of political terrorism involving Menelaus's daughter, arson, several more

shifts of action between a number of Greek states, and another long voyage across the seas—this one performed by Orestes.

Orestes, Agamemnon's son, who has been told that if he can find and bring back a certain statue of the goddess Artemis all his crimes, which include matricide, will be forgiven.

Half way back to Troy, in a remote and bleak outpost of eastern Europe, Orestes finds the statue. It is guarded by a priestess who exacts

a human sacrifice from any travellers who come near. Orestes

is captured and prepared for the slaughter. At the last

minute it turns out that the priestess is . . . none other than his long-lost sister Iphigenia

who was miraculously saved all those years ago by the very goddess whose statue she now guards, Artemis.

Brother and sister are reconciled and the story ends . . . but it wouldn't be fair to give away the ending.

All this violent action, I now saw, all these twists of fate, these families tangled in orgies

of feuding, killing, raping and robbing, knit the universe into one bloody pattern in which everything is connected to everything else and it was

going to be our problem to reveal that pattern clearly.

This was not simply a job of translation. It was also a challenge to our narrative powers,

and to our logistical ingenuity. The questions that had to be

solved related not just to dramatic reality, or artistic choice,

but to casting, the length of a program on any given evening, and budget.

The plays would no longer be plays in their own right; they would become "acts" in a longer play that would be performed on any given night.

The interconnectedness of everything in the dramas had some dizzying implications.

Take Achilles, for example. Achilles is the son of Peleus, who married Thetis, a goddess of the sea. Over the coming months I was to find myself thinking a lot about Peleus and Thetis and their marriage, although they make only

a brief appearance in the cycle of plays. Their marriage of course, took place a generation before the events in our saga but over and over again it is referred to as one of the most important events in the story.

There is a reason for this. The marriage of Peleus and Thetis was the last time, according to legend, that gods and mortals met as equals. At their wedding, attended by most of the Olympian gods, there was harmony on earth.

Discord was absent. And that was the trouble. The Goddess

of discord, Eris, had been invited.

She had brought along a golden apple inscribed

with the words "To the fairest".

Naturally the three most powerful goddesses claimed it and naturally they could not agree which of them deserved it. So they asked a mortal to arbitrate. That mortal happened to be Paris, the very Trojan who

figures in the start of the war.

His prize for choosing Aphro-

dite, goddess of love, was Helen, the beautiful Queen of Sparta. So the marriage of Peleus and Thetis, which produced the great hero Achilles, also produced the great hero of the war that killed Achilles and won the war.

The only problem was, none of this was dramatized. It was all in the background, in lines and images, in fragments of chorus, and in the minds of the original audience for Greek dramas, for whom these stories were part of their everyday life.

That is why the early weeks of my correspondence with John Barton contained many letters with sentences like

"... the natural shape for the evening is three plays and two intervals and four plays in an evening is too much. The best place for Helen is before Orestes . . . ?

Woe betide story tellers from a Middle East bazaar, weaving together a vastly complicated series of themes and characters. At other times we felt more like

the creators of a new timetable for a cosmic railway system, making sure that characters and the actors playing them did not collide at some embarrassing junction in space/time.

# Paperbacks of the month

## Women at work

**Victorian Working Women:** Portrait from Life by Michael Hiley (Gordon Fraser, £6.95)

**Edwardian Lady:** Edwardian High Society 1900-1914, by Kate Caffrey. The Grand Century of the Lady 1720-1820, by Arthur Calder-Marshall (Gordon and Cremonesi, £4.95 each).

A strait-laced civil servant with a job in the office of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners and lodgings in the Inner Temple had a life-long obsession. He could not take his mind off big, strong, muscular women who gave him a living by physical labour. The tougher and dirtier they were and the harder they worked, the more they obsessed him. Though a man of good breeding with an entree to fashionable society, Arthur Munby courted and secretly married a maid-of-all-work, Hannah Culwick, who called him "Massa" (master), washed and ironed, wore a neck chain and wrist strap for him as signs of slavery. He liked to count the number of boots she had to clean in a year (1,023 pairs in 1861, for example) and once took a photograph of her in the crouching servile pose of a chimney sweep, half-naked and covered in soot. Even after their marriage she continued to perform countless menial tasks for him, which he interpreted as signs of ideal "Christian sacrifice".

It was probably not a very healthy relationship, but at least Munby kept his hands off the hundreds of other labouring women whom he pursued throughout his life—hoarding photographs of them in their working gear and noting down with meticulous care in his diary details of their jobs and their physical appearance. On his death in 1910, he left behind a great mass of writings and photographs which he had never bothered to organize into any publishable form. And we are indebted to his eccentricity:

for without him we would know far less about the Wigan girls who "with their great rakes guide and sort the coal" amid the "whirling blackness" of suffocating dust; or the Filey fishergirls who would climb up and down the tall cliffs of rock "high and fast as a fisherman". Nor would we have Hannah Culwick's own account (written at Munby's bidding) of her work as a maid in the house of a Paddington upholsterer—an extraordinary chronicle of unremitting hard labour. As she recorded it, on January 1, 1871, the boy-servant her master kept was so "little" that all the heavy tasks fell to her like digging coats & curving 'em up . . . & anything else wants strength or height I am sent for. I clean & wash & iron clothes & the tins & help to clean the silver & do the washing up if I'm wanted & carrying things up & down the stairs for dinner & clean the trans—step & clean 3 rooms & my sitting—the hall & front steps & the flags & area railing—all that in the street—clean the water closets & carry & get all the meals down stairs & lay the cloth & wait on the boy & the housemaid, as much as they want . . .

Michael Hiley has reprocessed Arthur Munby's and Hannah Culwick's writings into a very presentable (if somewhat dislocated) volume of words and pictures. Arthur Calder-Marshall and Kate Caffrey have been less successful in their attempts to popularize history for the coffee-table. Their jumbles of anecdotes about the "ladies" of the Georgian and Edwardian eras contain some fascinating tit-bits—such as 18th century prescriptions for curing spots (two and a half grains of oixynurite of mercury in four ounces of spirits of wine for the "livid, burriny pimple") and the deadly components of Edwardian cosmetics (lead, prussic acid, arsenic)—but one has to wade through too much unconvincing verbiage to find them. Both volumes already have the dingy air of the "re-mandered" shelves.

Anna Coote  
South West Lancashire Pit Brow Woman 1886.



## Tough guy

**DASHIELL HAMMETT:** The Big Knockover (Penguin, £1.25); The Thin Man (Penguin, 85p)

"Dashiel Hammett gave murder back to the kind of people that commit it for reasons, not just to provide a corpse," Raymond Chandler's words are printed in big, fat letters on this new edition of some of Hammett's short stories. *The Big Knockover*. And it's a pity.

Portraying Hammett as the first of the tellers of tough private-eye stories may sell more copies than would proclaiming his major virtue (and correctly describing the contents: there are nine, not ten, "classic suspense stories", the tenth being Hammett's unfinished autobiographical novel *Tulip*). Hammett may have started as a writer of crime stories for pulp magazines, even excellent ones, but he ended as a novelist in the full meaning of the term.

So, while his fiction reads as simple crime stories has its excitements and the thrills of seeing a real, tough world, a much more enduring pleasure is to come from acknowledging the imaginative content, from experiencing it as literature. For Hammett had a vision of the world. He saw it, in the words of that fine critic Professor Steven Marcus, as "bottomlessly equivocal, endlessly fraudulent." He sought to show us a very much deeper reality than the mere brutalities of San Francisco in the 1920s.

I see a parallel in his life as a writer with Charles Dickens. Both had the traumatic experience, eventually beneficially revealing, of being tumbled from family security, however precarious, into the harsh com-

mercial lower depths. For Dickens it was the blacking factory. For Hammett it was leaving high school at 14 to work on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. Dickens began to break through by excelling at shorthand, becoming a parliamentary reporter. Hammett became a Pinkerton operative, and a very good one. Both began by writing fiction of a catchpenny sort. Both discovered they could strive for the highest things fiction can do. That striving eventually broke them both, Hammett much the sooner.

When you buy *The Big Knockover* read first the fragment *Tulip*. It amply repays you. Little happens. A writer is visited in his backwoods retreat by a World War II Army friend, a bit of a bore. They spar. Things come out. No more than that. But the writing is so truthful, so uncluttered, that you read as if there was a surprise every ten pages, a shock every 20. After this, turn to Lillian Hellman's long biographical introduction, much of it later used in her own autobiography, a beautiful piece of writing in a different, plodding style.

Then go on to the first of the stories "The Gutting of Couffignal" and experience its reversals of received opinion, its evocation of the uprooted world of post-World War I and ponder why its tough-guy narrator describes the man of the book as "the best, the wisest, the most watch and names its hero as Hogarth: Hogarth painter of the morally ambiguous underside of the ordered world. And so he read (again perhaps) *The Thin Man* and see it as more than a light-heated, talk-talking mystery. Ask yourself just why four whole pages are devoted to an extract from a social history describing a case of cannibalism in America.

H. R. F. Keating

## Demi paradise

**The Semi-attached Couple:** The Semi-detached House, by Emily Eden. (Virago, £2.95).

It must always be a satisfaction to the ordinary man to find that he has something in common with Darwin, if only a liking for novels with a happy ending. Emily Eden's are better than that; for the reader, at any rate, they are happy all through.

*The Semi-attached Couple*, first written in 1860 was written 30 years earlier. In its opening scene with Mrs Douglas acutely describing to her husband a visit to her grand neighbours, the Eskdales, it is bound to recall Jane Austen. Mrs Douglas, indeed, is a slice of lemon that prevents the love story from cloying, and most of the people next door will be like her. Lord and Lady Eskdale and their family are so affectionate, the young Tewtons are so interesting a case of marriage that nearly goes wrong, and the languid Colonel Beaufort so droll ("Half the fun of my proposal will be to see her look of delight") that it is always a pleasure to revisit them. Mrs Douglas, who has a genius for fancying signs of marriage in a pretty girl, is no age, bed as she seems and is sometimes forced into defending her victim by the airs and pretensions of the insufferable Lady Portmore, a born mischief-maker and another invention of whom Miss Austen herself might not have been ashamed.

And then there is Fisherwick, the Cabinet Minister's secretary, who simply lives to make his master comfortable and see him succeed—another charming and touching figure of comedy.

Yet the book naturally has a

tempo quite different from Miss Austen's. This is Miss Eden's own world of politics and country house life which the older author hardly knew, where the talk is brisk and lively and the people not hide-bound by convention. There are public affairs to recount, a bridge to be opened and an impromptu speech by the Cabinet Minister—and an election impossible to do justice to without long quotations.

Miss Eden was encouraged to unearth and revise the earlier novel by the success of another comedy, *The Semi-detached House*, in 1859, a work in striking contrast. Here we are in a dormitory suburb on the banks of the Thames, where another young wife, Lady Chester, is expecting her first baby and frantically trying to recall Jane Austen. Mrs Douglas, indeed, is a slice of lemon that prevents the love story from cloying, and most of the people next door will be like her. Lord and Lady Eskdale and their family are so affectionate, the young Tewtons are so interesting a case of marriage that nearly goes wrong,

and the tale in fact consists in her making friends with them and getting to know some of the more remarkable of the other inhabitants. The wrath of Miss Austen has gone; we are decidedly and delightfully in an unexpected corner of Victorian England, to which businessmen return from the City and sea captains from their voyages, and where suburban society indulges in monstrous snobberies. One spectacular figure is the Baroness Sampson, wife of a speculator on a big estate, whose attempts at patronizing her acquaintances always go wrong; another oddity is the inconsolable widow who positively flaunts his woes, and there is an original and rather pathetic character in the Baroness's close niece with a bitter tongue.

The rest of the pleasures in store for the new reader he may quickly discover for himself.

Jan Stephens

## White man's burden

Rumours of Rain, by André Brink (Star £1.50)

This novel has, I believe, made a great stir. This is because it has a great subject. South African novelists, like Russians, both in the nineteenth century and now, have the unfortunate good fortune to have unmapped territory to write about, and a complex, violent, morally compelling, and unstable society to understand, to describe, and possibly to change.

André Brink has taken on this epic duty with a fervour which is hard to distinguish from his Afrikaner hero-narrator's monotonously simple-minded and effective taking on of the burden of the Calvinist Boer in a rich but resistant Promised Land. We have everything here: big business (not too intricately presented), family history, Bible, hot dry land, kaffirs who change from friendly children to alien servants, wife, mistress, best friend who becomes a martyred hero of a violent resistance movement, son initiated into the brutalities of the white man's burden as a mercenary in Angola. We have intelligent, warm black men failing from windows, stady deals in land, patrimonial or tribal. We have Soweto.

The story is told in a series of flashbacks, put together with considerable technical brilliance as the narrator Martin Myburgh, writing less and less clumsily as he proceeds, searches his memories in the order in which he can bear to face them, during a visit to the family farm. He is trying to

sell the farm despite his widowed mother's desire to live and die on their own land. He is a grabber: he buys, seduces, rapes, cheats, sacks, sells, friends, lovers, family. He is an impoverished, helpless simpleton, who to all his henchmen is a godsend apart from capital, experience, and the irresistibility of infidelity. Most fluently enough to be both plausible and wholly self-deluding. He is also at some other level, never properly achieved in the writing, a more compelling figure. What he does do is annihilate most accidents—or like the wife of the black cowherd murdered by her husband on the night March happens to be at the farm. He is not accident-prone; he is a disaster-prone.

André Brink has made the epic difficult for himself because of the narrow limits of the style and thought processes of his narrator. One does not know, as reader or critic, whether one is being repelled by character or author. This matters a great deal, as there is something cheap and nasty about the book which I think is unintentional. There is an epic for a writer like Mann in South Africa. There are writers—Gordimer, Lessing, Jacobson—who have revealed the parts of this unknown world and the hideous and beautiful muddle of what seems to suggest Europeans such a simple black and white politico-social problem. But André Brink's epic is altogether too much Hollywood epic: big simple scenes, lots of rapes, nipples, communing (briefly) with the Earth, willing spreading of legs, and grand set piece speeches. People move around like animated celluloid, and the language flickers and thumps on like, maybe, the stream-of-consciousness of a tired businessman in a Jumbo jet half-watching Charlton Heston's craggy face on the small screen wrinkle with the effort to think about the Ten Commandments.

A. S. Byatt

## Radio Blondie and the Voice

Once upon a time, ten long years ago, there was a medium called radio and she was not a happy medium. The reason for her unhappiness was easy to discern: the infant marriage which some forty-eight years previously she had contracted with a certain Audience and which had blossomed and then so rapturously flourished—particularly during and after the war—was on the rocks, yet radio, she had never had any looks to speak of. What had been her secret? Well, she could swear it was Sophia Loren. Alas, along came the Blond Vampire of Lime Grove: the voice was nothing, with some uncharitably said vocabulary and brash to the broom. But she sang, she sang on the eye. With scarce a backward glance, Audience abandoned his beloved of so many years in favour of the Blond and Amazing Visible Vampire who even had the nerve to write a document by her ousted rival document by the hands of her own retainers (Trethowan and White) of name saying out how the world and foreseen woman might be permitted to pass the remainder of her inconspicuous days. That document was entitled *Broadcasting in the Seventies* and it decreed that her once all-powerful Voice should now confine itself chiefly to music and current affairs; and yes, she might continue to speak in dialogues although nobody could be in doubt that the big, bold, dramatic speaker had passed to Blondie. Furthermore she was recommended to apply herself henceforth to procreation, establishing her children—who should number 40—in branches of the news and current affairs of the business up and down the land. The decree was received with mixed rage, bafflement and despair: certain acolytes of the Voice threatened mutiny; one of the most famous of them, one Bridson, gave it as his opinion that *Broadcasting in the Seventies* proved to most thinking people that the Seventies were for the yesterdays. In short, ten years ago radio was in a right mess. A suitable question therefore at the end of the decade might be to ask: Has the voice decayed still further with it? Or is she now a happier medium than she was?

I think there can be little doubt that radio today is, if not actively happy, at least in a very much better physical and psychological condition than she was and that this has happened partly because she has done what she was told. She broadcasts enormous quantities of news and its derivatives and when she does so—at least at some hours of the day and night—her audience returns to her; she has cultivated music with an immense (and so some alarming) catholicity so that taken all in all, it probably attracts the largest single faithful audience. Her progeny now exceed 40, although not quite as planned, for when that target was set she was still a BBC monopoly. The Seventies was a gambler, and young Litvinoff briefly became an enthusiastic Young Communist because of Hanan Pishbin, because of her sweet smile, schoolgirl freckles and plump young breasts".

Litvinoff's father returned to Russia and was never heard of again, but not every immigrant was an anarchist or revolutionist as we suspected at the time. Mr Stenberg, a small tax man, was one of when he settled in London's East End or New York's lower East Side, their descendants were often as successful in the professions as in business.

The New World offered more opportunity and larger rewards but many British Jews, to use Norman Podhoretz's phrase, made it, seem as writers. Or so it seems to me. Without really trying I can think of many good American Jewish writers, but over here only publishers come readily to mind.

I was reminded of this after reading for the first time Emanuel Litvinoff's *Journey Through a Small Planet*, now issued in paperback. His East End was very different from mine, but just as colourful and alive, and should have produced a school of Jewish writers. Certainly I cannot recall reading a comparable American work as good as this.

*Small Planet* is a fragmentary account of the author's childhood, and I read it in one sitting. There was none of the expected schmaltz, but an array of characters who could have come out of Dickens, except that being recent arrivals from eastern Europe, gave them an extra dimension.

Their sons and daughters were assimilated; there is a revealing passage in which the young Litvinoff, in conversation

## Facing facts

Blessings, by Mary Craig (Coronet, 85p)

Mark Golombok, a tailor's presser, made soldiers' uniforms during the First World War and in a pocket of each uniform inserted a handwritten leaflet which said, "Turn your guns on your real enemies! Down with blood-thirsty Capitalism!" (signed) Workers' Committee for International Unity".

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It is a truly remarkable book, in every way. Paul died at the age of 10, and no one could pretend that this was anything but a mercy. It had never been possible for anyone to form any kind of relationship with him through the Polish school, had helped a little. Mary Craig accepted the pain and the exhaustion, pulling herself out of self-pity and hopelessness as such, in the post of mistress to Charles II. The actions were licentious, the words amazingly prim. By comparison to the works of James or Susanna Jefferds, *Amber* could be an Old Testament, which is not as odd as it seems. While *Amber* is the horrid, the hating, Bruce, lords, ladies, highwaymen, citizens and children were all carved from gorgeous cardboards. Kathleen Winsor had done all the research very thoroughly and Restoration London and the brilliant, cruel and treacherous Court comes to life, or, as in a truly awful description of two people lying through an attack of the plague, to death.

More or Less, by Kenneth More (Coronet, £1.25). The face is familiar. Everyone knows the cheerful, friendly extrovert, the man who starred in all the films about the war, and those very funny comedies. Less well known are the pitiful on the way to the top, and the even more painful moments when a career takes a sharp downward turn. More could be found that would take the subtle tones of the etchings and the artist has therefore replaced them all with pen drawings—much cunning, scratchy shading and cross-hatching. The replicas may lack the brooding weight of the original pictures, but the originality and wit are certainly there. More has assembled a source-book of modern history and given it the panoramic range of a 19th-century novel.

For ever Amber, by Kathleen Winsor (Corgi, two vols, £1.25 each). The book caused a sensation when it came out in 1945, read surreptitiously by young, well-read, by their elders, serialized in Sunday newspapers, it told the story of a woman, the illegitimate girl of gentle birth, who runs a swathe through Restoration London, from her unshakable devotion to Bruce, Lord Carlton, her first seducer, on

to practically innumerable affairs and marriages, culminating, if it can be regarded as such, in the post of mistress to Charles II. The actions were licentious, the words amazingly prim. By comparison to the works of James or Susanna Jefferds, *Amber* could be an Old Testament, which is not as odd as it seems. While *Amber* is the horrid, the hating, Bruce, lords, ladies, highwaymen, citizens and children were all carved from gorgeous cardboards. Kathleen Winsor had done all the research very thoroughly and Restoration London and the brilliant, cruel and treacherous Court comes to life, or, as in a truly awful description of two people lying through an attack of the plague, to death.

Local radio apart, the other alternative innovations of the decade have also arisen directly out of radio's need to find a role in the face of television. Fast news coverage is one of the necessities or benefits that go with it: the kind of news and current affairs coverage offered by Radio 4, for instance, or the huge output of serious music on Radio 3. These are what she was told to provide but there are other reasons why network radio will not wither away. She has reclaimed an audience, and a substantial one for radio; had they not done so, the advertisers and shareholders not had proof of it, then certainly as far as the IBA stations are concerned, none of them could have survived.

In the meantime, although the audience—and especially at the Radio 4 end—has been falling off, there is no hint that the networks propose to go out of business if only because there is no one else to provide a truly national radio service and some of the necessities or benefits that go with it: the kind of news and current affairs coverage offered by Radio 4, for instance, or the huge output of serious music on Radio 3. These are what she was told to provide but there are other reasons why network radio will not wither away.

Philippe Toomey

*Testament of Experience*, by Vera Brittain (Virago, £3.50). A sequel (with *Testament of Friendship*) to the redacted and much admired *Testament of Youth*, this part of Vera Brittain's biography covers the years 1925-50 and the birth of her two children, John and Shirley. Her political and writing career. To a convinced pacifist the dreadful years of the rise of the Nazis and the Spanish Civil War were terrifying. During the war she campaigned for the Spanish Republic, and after the fall of Madrid, fled to America, wrote, and at all times kept in very close touch with the political life of the country. A remarkable record.

David Wade

## PERSONAL CHOICE

Antonia Pemberton and Emily Richard in *Enemy at the Door* (ITV, 8.45)

**• We must be charitable and assume that, even though tonight's production of Prokofiev's *The Love of Three Oranges* (BBC 2, 7.20) is the RBC's first televised opera since the really hideous *Nacheth* of 1977, the long interval was in no way the result of the hawks of dismay which greeted that artistic nightmare.**

Tonight's is a studio performance, as was the *Verdi*, but I believe that its set design, which includes spectacular waterfalls and a flying balloon, is quite remarkable. And it must count for something that Oleg Prokofiev, son of Serge, is in his introduction to tonight's production that he feels it is the best representation of his father's fantasy opera that he has ever seen. Should the sight of it displease you, however, you can always list to it on Radio 3 at 7.15, and in stereo too.

**• Royalists are well catered for today. *Soul of a Nation* (BBC 2, 9.25) is a two-part documentary about King Bhumibol Adulyadej and Queen Sirikit of Thailand, and *International Assignment* (Radio 4, 11.35 am) toots up the number of other kings and queens the world over who still have a throne on which to sit. I see that Leo Aylen, who wrote the film about the Thai monarchy, was unable to resist the temptation to get the king to talk about one of his famous ancestors, King Mongkut, whom Yul Brynner swaggeringly impersonated in *The King and I* (indeed he is still doing so in London). The film is banned in Thailand; whether on artistic or monarchic grounds, we may learn tonight.**

**• London Weekend Television's first collection of plays about the German occupation of the Channel Islands in the Second World War—they went under the umbrella title *Enemy at the Door*—were so well received that a second lot was embarked upon, and tonight (ITV, 8.45) sees the return of the first episode. Few will be sorry to see that Alfred Burke's Major Richter, a resounding hit in the first series, is jackingboot it again through the streets of Guernsey in the second.**

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN: + STEREO; - BLACK AND WHITE; (r) REPEAT.

## CHOICE

## Sunday's programmes

## TELEVISION

## BBC 1

8.55 am *Ragtime*: children's puppet show (r).

9.10 *Nai Zindagi Naya Jeevan*: for Asian viewers.

9.15 *Company Account*: Profit and loss and the shop floor. Closedown at 10.05.

10.30 *The Handicapped Family*: Advice for the families of disabled people. New series. Closedown at 10.55.

11.20 *Adventure*: Part 13 of the *1945 Multi-Racial Britain*. How blacks and whites are integrating with each other in Bradford and West Bromwich schools.

12.10 pm *A Church to Yourself*: A profile of St Peter's Parish Church, Kendal.

12.25 *Christianity Explored*: Interview with Michael Perry, Archdeacon of Durham.

12.55 *Farming*: the weekly magazine.

**• Felicity Kendal in Shakespeare's Twelfth Night (BBC 2, 7.20)**

**• Washington: Behind Closed Doors** was neo-Nazism's micro-drama. *Blind Ambition* (BBC 2, 10.20) puts a real shoulder to the wheel and discloses the truth behind Watergate. The whole truth? Well, the truth according to Mr Nixon's special counsel, John Dean, and his wife Mo who both wrote books about the affair. This four-part series is a dramatization of both works.

**• I have a gut feeling, as the Americans say, that Cedric Massina's production of *Twelfth Night* (BBC 2, 7.15) will be one of his better contributions to the televised Complete Works. For one thing, just look at the cast (see BBC 2 on the right).**

**• Inside Japan (BBC 1, 10.55), the first of 15 films about this technologically-thrusting nation, scarcely mentions hardware. It is the story of just one village, where the community spirit is all pervasive.**

**• In Look Alive (ITV, 1.30), John Pardoe explains how ITV is trying to get its pre-strike viewers back. More programmes like this should do the trick, I would say.**

**• Francis Essex's comedy *The Stillingbury Blowers* (ITV, 7.45) is eccentrically British enough to be an Ealing film in all but name, studio and repertory company. An awful village brass band is taken over by a pop music composer.**

Much angry puffing and blowing by die-hards. Then—amazing success. But some sour notes, too. The village that stands in for Stillingbury is Aldbury in Hertfordshire which will now become a big tourist draw.

## BBC 2

10.35 *Open University*, 10.35 S101, Preparatory Maths : 10.50 For students and teachers of A101; 11.15 *First Years of Life*; 11.40 *Energy in the Home*; 12.05 *Countdown* at the 6.11, Closedown at 12.20.

1.15 *The King Ballet*: The repeat screening of the famous Soviet company dancing Marius Petipa's three-act ballet *La Bayadere*. Gabrielle Konyreva dances the title role in this Soviet TV production.

4.15 *Rugby Special*: Review of the forthcoming international season, by Nigel Starmer-Smith.

7.15 Film: *Fiddler on the Roof* (1971). Musical set in a post-revolutionary Ukrainian village where

a poor milkman tries to marry off his five daughters. On the long side, but Topol as the milkman gives the film the vigour it needs. Some marvellous songs, such as *Sourire*, *Sunset and I* were a Rich Man.

10.10 *News*: with Kenneth Kendall.

10.20 *Orphans of Idi Amin*: An Everyman report on the youngsters who run the flourishing black market in Kampala in the wake of eight years of civil war.

10.35 *Inside Japan*: First of 15 films about Japan today. This one is about a village where arranged marriages are still the norm (see Personal Choice).

11.45 *Weather*...

**• Regions:**

BBC 1 VARIATIONS: Wales: 12.55

Cheshire: 2.45 Sports Line-up, 4.45

5.15 News; 6.15 News and weather.

7.15 Film: *Where the Music Takes Us*.

9.15 Film: *Music at Night*: Final movement of Liszt's piano suite *The Christmas Tree*, played by Yvonne Gledhill.

11.50 pm Close.

5.45 Rugby League results.

5.50 Cricket: Highlights from the third day's play in the second Test between Australia and England.

From Sydney.

6.30 *Shakespeare in Perspective*:

Former Royal Shakespeare Company director David Jones set the scene for tonight's big production of *Twelfth Night*.

6.45 *News Review* with visual commentary for the hard of hearing.

7.15 *News and Weather*.

7.15 BBC Television Shakespeare: *Twelfth Night* with Alec McCowan as Malvolio. Felicity Kendal as Viola. Sincere Cusack as Olivia. Annette Crosbie as Maria and Robert Hardy as Sir Toby Belch (see Personal Choice).

2.30 *Police Five*: How you can help Scotland Yard.

2.45 *The Big Match*: Highlights from three of yesterday's FA Cup ties.

3.45 Film: *Father Dear Father* (1972). Cinema version of the TV comedy series, again with Patrick Cargill as the father best by two troublesome daughters (Natasha Pyne and Anna Molodovskaya).

5.30 *Worzel Gummidge*: A new series of 26 family adventure stories. The bird is a sea-plane, ungainly but lovable.

6.00 News.

6.15 *Islam*: Documentary that looks at the Muslim revival and how it has turned against America and the West.

7.15 *Family Fortunes*: Bob Monkhouse compares this new type of family quiz in which the winning contestants' answers must coin-

cide with those recorded earlier in a viewer's poll.

7.45 *The Shillingbury Blowers*:

Francis Essex's comedy about a very bad band and the pop group (Robin Nedwell) who placed the band's veteran conductor (Trevor Howard). Also starring Diana Keen, Jack Douglas and John Le Mesurier. (Personal Choice).

9.15 *Bless Me, Father*: Arthur Lowe as the funny Roman Catholic priest. Tonight is the wedding reception that comes before the wedding.

10.00 Film: *Sex and the Married Woman* (1977). Made-for-television comedy about a psychologist (Joanna Pettet) who writes a best-selling sex book and the husband (Barry Newman) who objects to it.

11.45 *George Hamilton IV*: The country and western singer...

12.15 am *Close Poetry* read by Cyril Luckham.

11.50 Chopper Squad.

2.30 Police Five: Highlights from the 1970s.

2.45 *Country News*: 9.45 Number 2 at Work.

3.00 *Top Gear*: 3.45 Film: *Close*.

3.45 *Prin-Celynni*: 3.45 Survival.

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7.15 *Family Fortunes*: Bob Monkhouse compares this new type of family quiz in which the winning contestants' answers must coin-

## ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL



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Conductors: SIR MICHAEL TIPPETT, NORMAN DEL MAR. MICHAEL RODEN narrator PAUL ELLIOTT tenor

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MOZART: Serenade in D, K.251. Serenata Notturna

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Fred Emery

# Afghanistan: the West's opportunity

The Kremlin has grimly wrung in the 1980s with its ruthless neo-Tsarist attempt to reduce Afghanistan, once for all, to a docile satellite. But there is—British ministers believe—critical opportunity amid the danger of this crisis, for both the industrial democracies and the countries of the Third World, or at least its leading ones.

It is not simply to wring hands or sell new arms. It is to tackle again the core, and difficult, and neglected problems that divide and drain us—over the price of oil, the terms of trade, and the Arab-Israel conflict. Then together, perhaps, we might draw new and rougher lines for dealing with the Soviet Union.

Any such revival demands leadership, resolve and inspiration—qualities not much in sight lately, especially during an American presidential election year. But, irritating as amusing as many in Britain's political opposition undoubtedly find it, Her Majesty's present team of ministers still have their self-confidence largely intact.

Now it is early yet to guess

what can come of it; and it would be foolhardy to imagine that there is any grand design for large-scale constructive north-south diplomacy. We are feeling our way. But it is possible that President Carter, himself much restored by the twin crises in Iran and Afghanistan, will be encouraged by any revival of allied vigour. At least, after the initial shock of the Soviet putsch in Kabul, we do not seem to be starting from those shrill positions of near panic, like the screams over the supposed "missile gap" in 1960.

Instead, there is more a willingness to accept that the Kremlin too, is capable of blunder.

None of this is necessarily reassuring. But it, together with other evidence, is more assuring than if it were proven that we were in the presence of some inexorably pursued Russian plot to grab the Middle East, and its oil, and slowly throttle us into submission. That long term Soviet plan presumably exists. But the clumsy way the Afghanistan affair was executed and presented, does not argue

good planning, nor does it argue good timing.

The Kremlin has jeopardized its purchase of grain from the United States when it needs them most; it has cast to the wind whatever hope it had of credit in the Muslim world at a time when militant Islam was aggravated against the United States; and it appears, from its silence, to have traumatized its own Warsaw Pact allies who were hoping for economic gains from détente. And it has hazarded the Olympic Games. And, judging by what happened after the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia, it has possibly deferred a SALT agreement for years.

Clearly, the Russian imperative to act in Kabul was extraordinarily pressing—perhaps as pressing to preserve what it had already invested there as was the American compulsion to go deeper into Vietnam in 1965 in order not to lose face.

Deriving counter-measures to make it too risky for the Russians to try this again is the West's first task. The demand for action is rising. In opposition, Mrs Thatcher wanted most consideration given to cutting off Russia from grain supplies, from new technology, and cheap loans. Tomorrow, in her first British television interview since taking office, the Prime Minister will have the opportunity to dispel a widespread impression that, so far at any rate, the western allies are only interested in a show of wrist-slapping.

No doubt the Conservatives

will also use this crisis for a particular domestic advantage.

The forthcoming debate over renewing the British independent nuclear deterrent looks now to have been weighted heavily in the Government's favour by the Soviet action.

But playing the Iron Lady

will only be taking half the opportunity, and the easier half.

The Prime Minister and the Government should be pressed down the difficult route of seeking a new social contract with the developing world. After all, they have been shown what

there is to lose by way of signing a friendship treaty with the Soviet Union.

Lord Carrington: justifiably heartened.

## Soggy puzzles in Archimedes style

Some may solve Times Crosswords in the kitchen, using them as egg-timers, while others tackle them on the train, on the way to work. One former champion used to solve them in the wings between stage appearances, while another was wont to use them as soporifics—solving them in his customary few minutes before going to sleep at night. It would however have required the services of the late George Formby, in his window-cleaner's role, to discover the secret of one lady solver who confessed that it was her custom to do *The Times* Crossword in her bath.

So temptingly sybaritic a notion may well catch on (opening up a whole new market for crosswords printed on celluloid and chinagraph pencils that can write under water) and though it may be premature to speculate on the possibility of requiring crossword championship finalists to solve their puzzles while reclining in baths of asses' milk (which should excite the media more than somewhat a few suggestions to any readers involving with the idea of adopting such a change in life-style may not come amiss).

Ladies who have recently married husbands named George Joseph Smith should naturally keep their wits about them whatever they may be doing in their baths. Other puzzlers are advised to ask their psycho-analysts to ensure that they show no signs of the dangerous Archimedes Complex which would compel them to jump out of their baths and strum down the street crying "Eureka!" (or, if they are classical scholars, "Hukara") whenever they solved a particularly tricky anagram. It would also be sensible of course to instruct the bather on no account to admit any visitor giving the name of Corday until five minutes after their bathwater has been heard gurgling away down the drainpipe.

Fifty years ago the very first Times Crosswords were being compiled to appear first in *The Times Weekly Edition* and a little later in the daily edition with the *Times* Crossword Puzzle No 1 appearing on February 1, 1930, so that the crossword on February 1, 1980, will be the same hand that compiled the first *Times* Crossword, will be in celebration of the Crossword's Golden Jubilee. Penguin Books are publishing *The Penguin Book of The Times 50th Anniversary Crosswords* at the same time, giving the puzzles of February 1, 1930 and February 1, 1980 and one puzzle from each of the intervening years, chosen from February in each case except 1979 when the puzzle chosen did not appear until December 14. The book will also include much of the early and the later history of *The Times* Crossword.

**Edmund Akenhead**  
Crossword Editor

Another date which cross-

'International Anthem'  
Music by Stanley Myers. Words by Christopher Logue



From the painted caves of Lascaux  
to the mouth of Outer Space  
what mortal goes so fast so far  
as the Mighty Human Race?

And the speechless beasts co-operate  
in Man's tempestuous feats;  
the tougher kind he puts to work,  
while the toothsome sort, he eats.

On the West hand—Private Enterprise  
on the East—the Worldwide Plan,  
marching onwards through the Universe  
goes the Family of Man!

© Myers and Logue, 1980.

## Golfing tales from Rye

Fifty years ago the entry for the President's Putter was less than half its present entry of 110 and play fitted comfortably into two days; but what wealth of talent those mild figures conceal. Sir Ernest Holderness who kept winning the event and was an amateur champion was runner-up that year to Dale Bourne who himself was to become a runner-up in the Amateur. The previous year Holderness had won his fifth Putter, defeating Cyril Tolley who later the same year won the Amateur title.

In the semi-finals, with them had been Harold Gillies who, at the time, was better known at Rye for his skill in furtively lighting fireworks beneath the benches in the Dormy House billiards room than for his consummate skill as a plastic surgeon, and Speakman.

Speakman never attained such celebrity but his immortality is secured by the end of his piece about the golf in

story about him which had its roots in his victory that same year over Bertrand Darwin. I hesitate to tell it because to non-golfers it might put Darwin in a bad light, but it arose from playing off the short 14th, a different hole from the present, in which Darwin's finely struck tees hit the green and bounded like a frightened stag far over it; Speakman's shot was it; a bagatelle stroke which bobbed its way on to the edge of the green from where he sank an enormous putt for a two in reply to a courageous recovery by Darwin a three.

Darwin cursed the hole, he cursed the course, which he loved so well, he cursed everything and ended his tirade: "And furthermore Speakman God damn you". Speakman, a mild-mannered schoolmaster was not used to such verbal pyrotechnics but Darwin, as always, was the soul of courtesy in print. Speakman, he said was a redoubtable competitor and deserved to win, but he could not refrain from a revealing comment at the end of his piece about the golf in

general that day: "The golf was scarcely golf but a game of its own which could be skilfully and courageously played but which was at times both fluky and exasperating".

That description fits not only the conditions of his match but that of scores of matches since including many this week. The entry is lighter in quality these days. The Blues are no longer the best amateurs in the country, and Walker Cup teams in the past 20 years have recruited only five Oxbridge men to their ranks—Alec Shepperson, Brian Chapman, Gordon Huddy, Michael Attentborough and David Marsh.

I would not know whether the enjoyment of this tournament is as intense as it used to be. The evening jinks in the Dormy House which has remained, so to speak, the officers' mess of the occasion, are from all accounts lower than they used to be in the days when the speaker at one of their dinners was gently crowned with a willow-patterned po as he spoke by a joker emerging from the folds of the curtains behind him.

Perhaps it is as well; such escapades hardly suit the mood

of the country today. But a fine balance between good humour and serious endeavour is still prevalent and that is a most important element in the game. For one blessed week prize money has no foothold anywhere in the world. The United States tour has nothing, the opening scene of their programme beginning next week with the Bob Hope tournament. There is nothing of significance in South Africa, Australia, Japan or the Argentine.

The golf world has ground to a halt which is one reason why this little jewel of a tournament of the Oxford and Cambridge Golfing Society this week becomes larger than life.

In California the American robots are preparing to open their spring tour with the Bob Hope (American) tournament as we should call it now that we have a British counterpart here this summer.

Some of the more tiresome features of that big event have fortunately been dropped for the British version—fortunately that is for the golf writers. In the United States, the tournament is played over four courses and five days.

A conscientious colleague who

was over there to cover the event remembers driving his hired car out to one of the courses—Spyglass Hill—to watch Tony Jacklin. It was pouring with rain and by the time he had found the course he had only an hour and a half before he had to send his copy, the timelag being eight hours. He watched five holes during which nothing of the slightest importance took place then returned in a bad humour to base.

Bernard Levin writing recently of the magnetic qualities of cigarette cards referred to the high quality of the writing on the back of the cards which would be lost if people gave way to the natural desire to frame them. His words about cruelty to cigarette cards fell on sympathetic ears in respect of at least one member of the society, Mr Richard Parton.

Mr Parton is something of a rare specimen himself—one of those distinguished few who joined the society after coming down and without having won a Blue. I do not know how many cigarette cards he has—I am doubtful whether he does—but if swaps are anything to go by and they surely are, he has

15,000.

He would not dream of sticking them into anything and he values highly what is written on the back. As a golfer how could he do otherwise? Among the many series of golfing cards—courses, players, golfing terms—are some exquisite examples of the Darwinian touch. My favourites are a series of "Can you beat Bogey?" in which he introduces three golfers who form the subject of another series "Three Golfers in Search of the Perfect Course".

Mr Tiger is a Brylcreamed dad, Mr Everyman, like most of us, thought he was better than he was and became puce with fury when he was made to realize that he was not and Mr Rabbit wore a dreadful cap and was always saying the wrong thing.

Mr Parton may in the context of the Putter be Mr Everyman, but as a cartophilist as I gather they are called he is Mr Tiger.

It would not be difficult,

won by someone over 40. Will Nicklaus show us that what Player can do can be better? This year may well supply the answer telling us whether he will continue to widen the gap between himself and his contemporaries or whether another barrel year in that respect which produced dollars galore but no titles, might not hasten a decision which would make the youngest of the Big Three the first to hang up his clubs.

In 1970, Arnold Palmer's manager Mark McCormack made a wager. He made it in print which is the safest place to make wagers. Palmer had won the last two tournaments of the American season in 1969, and his manager in what seemed at the time an excess of loyalty, predicted that Palmer would make more money in the Seventies than he had done in his heyday in the Sixties.

I mentally took that wager, though I might not have done so if I had known then what I know now about inflation. When McCormack had finished adding the thoughts to his calculation could he tell us whether he or I won the wager?

Philip Howard

Everyman's Encyclopaedia, sixth edition (Dent, £17.50)

## Everyman: filling the black holes

edited to a very tight house style for everything from Chinese characters to mathematical symbols for the computer's magnetic tape, which proposed to regurgitate all your Polish books as Turkish cedillas. You accumulate a vast collection of data, from which one day, with luck, you will be able to extract other specialist reference books, for instance a Middle East Encyclopaedia or a companion to the veritable discipline of sociology.

At the end of his marathon of general knowledge in January David Girling left school at 17 to spend six years as a bombardier in the Royal Artillery, the last three of them at the Woomera Rocket Range, where there was nothing to do but drink or read. He became a bibliophile. After the gunners he had this romantic idea of becoming an author. Instead he became a non-writing writer by going into publishing.

He joined Dent to produce the new *Everyman* in 1972. His predecessor had started the process of revision by amending his copy in a crabbled hand with crabby glosses: under Tolstoy: "Yes, but he was dirty and smelly"; under the entry for tolls: "And what, pray, means to tollage one's vileness?"; under *Transubstantiation*: "Such odd things are happening in the Roman Catholic Church today."

To make a new encyclopaedia not many to summarize the tree of knowledge. Inevitably such a concise survey is superficial when it deals with a subject one knows about. Just you try to reduce the plot of the *Aeneid* to six lines, or catch Housman's poetry in a sentence ("small statements of regret and pain in a pastoral setting"). Pshaw! Although the cross-referencing is quite extensive, *Everyman* really does need an index. I ask myself, do I really want to meet Merlin Rees in my source of general knowledge?

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"...new drama of psychological consciousness in which technique and aesthetic concerns predominate."

After 18 months the articles trickle in, and have to be

revised and corrected.

The encyclopaedia has moved

up market as well as growing bigger and more expensive. But it still tries to give the general reader clear concise spelling free from jargon, and to be comprehensive, but not necessarily exhaustive, or exhausting.

The editor of the new edition was David Girling in a tradition of encyclopaedists from Diderot to William Smellie, the first editor of *Britannica*, who was Smellicy, but wrote most of the articles. Girling left school at 17 to spend six years as a bombardier in the Royal Artillery, the last three of them at the Woomera Rocket Range, where there was nothing to do but drink or read. He became a bibliophile. After the gunners he had this romantic idea of becoming an author. Instead he became a non-writing writer by going into publishing.

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In a fortnight's time he will be 40 and the world will wait to see whether he can still make progress in the one sphere in which he is still interested, that of the four major titles.

That victory from behind of Palmer; a slight intensification of the one or two deep furrows

he has conceded to the passage of time; while the youngest of the three, Jack Nicklaus, moves, when he is so inclined, as briskly and as purposefully about his business as ever. It is salutary therefore to be reminded that last autumn Palmer celebrated his 50th birthday. As though in defiance of the calendar, he later finished third in the Brazilian Open and, hopping thence to Cape Town for another tournament, broke 70 in the first round.

One has only to hint behind the back of one's head that perhaps Player's best days are behind him, for him to deliver a smart snub, such as his 64 in winning the Masters two years ago, or his four victories in a row before Christmas in his native land. The youngest of the three remains the greatest enigma.

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جامعة الكندي

## GRAIN AS A WEAPON

If President Carter really wants to hurt the Soviet Union for its invasion of Afghanistan he can stop grain shipments. His Department of Agriculture is now studying the implications, and so are his political advisers. Both will find the problems daunting. It is not an easy decision. What is not in doubt is that the Russians would feel this weapon more than they feel the cancellation of visits or the suspension of the Salt debate in the Senate.

They had a particularly bad harvest last year which brought in only 179 million tonnes. This is 56 million tonnes less than the previous year and a long way below the average annual target of 215 million called for in the current five-year plan. As a consequence they plan to import about 32 million tonnes in the year ending next September. Of this 25 million would come from the United States. About 3.6 million have already been shipped. The rest is going out at a rate of about 1.5 million tonnes a week, which is the maximum that Soviet ports can handle.

At least two-thirds of American grain that goes to the Soviet Union is destined for animals. Presumably an embargo would cause animals to be slaughtered, which would temporarily increase the supply of meat and then sharply reduce it. Nobody would starve as there is enough bread

and other basic foodstuffs but the consumer would soon notice that meat was becoming even more difficult to find than it is now in many parts of the Soviet Union. Added to the difficulties which the Soviet economy is now facing—industrial growth is far short of its targets—the result of a grain embargo would be much more than a minor inconvenience, especially if Australia and Canada joined in.

Should the United States exploit this weakness? The arguments against doing so will obviously weigh heavily on President Carter. He was rash enough to indicate during his election campaign that he would be unlikely to use this weapon, and in about three weeks the farming state of Iowa is choosing its delegates for the Democratic convention. The political penalties for alienating the farmers might not be balanced by any significant drop in consumer prices. Then there is the problem of what to do with the unsold grain. Would it be stored or unloaded onto the world market at reduced prices? What would be the effect of the extra shipping capacity?

But the question to start from is whether an embargo would have the desired effect on the Soviet Union. Obviously there are dangers in starting a spiral of action and counter-action which could lead towards a

serious confrontation. The more the Soviet Union was hurt by a grain embargo the more it might feel compelled to hurt the United States in some way. Relations could unravel too fast for either side to control.

On the other hand there are very serious dangers in allowing the Soviet Union to develop the confidence that it can march into other countries without paying any significant price at all. So far nothing that Mr Carter has done will cause more than a ripple in the Kremlin.

(The Salt treaty was stalled in the Senate anyway, and there are certainly generals in Moscow who would be glad to be rid of it.) Any penalty that hurts is liable to provoke retaliation.

This is a risk that must be taken for the sake of averting greater risks in the future.

A grain embargo is a suitable measure because it can be applied gradually and abandoned easily if the situation changes and because it does not involve the overthrow of Daoud, and its acceptance of Afghanistan's transformation into a satellite state, can only have confirmed Russia's belief that Afghanistan is treated by the West as being in the Soviet block.

To see this week's events as a new and dangerous escalation in Russian international aggression is misleading and to the Kremlin probably incomprehensible.

The contrast, then, is really no contrast at all: something which we implicitly recognize in that there has been no serious suggestion (as yet) of the West becoming militarily involved. It is another Czechoslovakia. It can, of course, be argued that the West was wrong in 1968, and that no country can lose its international rights as a sovereign state merely through a "Munro" mentality, whether it be American or Russian. If, though, we do accept the principle of the "sphere of interest" then it's most irresponsible to continue to distinguish between Czechoslovakia and Afghanistan—it suggests that the West is not prepared to give military assistance to safeguard the independence of truly sovereign states.

You're faithfully,  
CHRISTOPHER DICKINSON,  
Kent College,  
Canterbury.  
January 2.

From Mr Peter Hain

Sir, Lord Harris (January 3)

followed a well-trodden path in

accusing the left in general and

myself by name of having a

"selective conscience" over Soviet

aggression and brutality, in this case

the invasion of Afghanistan. His

accusation is false and malicious.

I condemn outright the invasion:

I protested against the Russian take-

over of Czechoslovakia in 1968 (in

a series of demonstrations organized

by left wing groups); and I have

repeatedly opposed both Soviet

denials of human rights and their

various imperialist foreign ventures.

Lord Harris chooses to ignore, in

addition, the outspoken attack on

Russia's Afghanistian invasion by the

left of the Labour Party.

The selectivity of conscience,

surely, lies amongst those on the

centre and right of British politics

who consistently turn a blind eye to

atrocities committed in the name

of "democracy" by the West and

its allies (e.g. Vietnam, Cambodia,

Chile, South Africa). And that

explains why these issues tend to

provoke most risible protest from

the British left: we are forced to

look at 1980 with deep foreboding about the future of India, Pakistan and Iran.

Our own experience in Afghani-

stan in two 19th century wars

offers one consolation, however.

The British and Indian armies

learned the hard way that no one

trespasses on Afghan soil with

impunity. The Soviet forces now in

Afghanistan will soon discover that

for themselves; their advance

guard may have learned the fearful

lesson already.

We, too, went into Afghanistan

in 1839 and again in 1878 with

superior technology, fire power and

military discipline. We, too,

appeared to have brought stability

to a turbulent country, but the

stability was illusory and short-

ived. We did better at the second

attempt, but only because Abdur

Rahman returned from exile in

India next week.

Young faithfully,

N. M. DE S. CAMERON,

8 Ansondale, Street,

Edinburgh.

December 28.

charters to consider the interests of the public and to promote the standards and development of their profession as well as to forward the immediate interests of their members. For an occupation to become a profession in the commonly accepted sense of the word means more than for its practitioners to enjoy the privileges of controlling their own entry and regulating their own conduct. It means also that they must have specialized skills acquired by intellectual and practical training, that they have a high degree of detachment and integrity, and, above all, that they have a strong sense of responsibility and an exceptional commitment to the interests of their clients which transcends all other commitments.

There are, in fact, some striking

similarities between profes-

sional associations and trade

unions. Neither have been

conspicuous for their enlighten-

ment and forward-looking

attitudes towards the general

public welfare. Many people

would no doubt still find

it apposite Arnold Bennett's

comment on the medical and

legal professions made 65 years

ago, that "their two great unions

are among the most vicious

opponents of social progress in

Britain today".

Yet there is, of course, one

essential difference. Professional

associations are bound by their

charter to consider the interests

of the public and to promote the

standards and development of

their profession as well as to

forward the immediate interests

of their members.

Since we are presumably making

a large contribution to finance this

sort of nonsense, Mr Peter Walker

might well ask to examine the

French books, or, alternatively

consider adopting a similar policy in our own agricultural communities.

Yours faithfully,

K. W. HARDY,

Borden Hall,

Borden,

Sittingbourne,

Kent.

December 28.

British Council cuts

From Dr K. W. Hardy

It is like Mr John Braddock (December 18), who was deeply involved in a small way in a French agricultural reorganization scheme.

This is referred to officially as Réorganisation Foncière et de Re-

membrement, an essential part of their agricultural policy and has

much to commend it. It is, I believe, generally welcomed by farming

communities but they are critical

of the cost of the initial elaborate

survey of the civil servants and the

wasteful and often nonsensical

conditions required to be observed by the commune, before they receive

their grants.

For instance, in the region of

which I have some knowledge, it

has been decreed that all roads in

the area should not only have a

tarmac surface but also be nine

metres wide. This is applied rigidly

and without purpose, even to rural

roads several miles long, which

adequately serve the needs of small

cottages.

Obviously this is a civil servants'

paradise if they are paid, as Mr

Braddock has indicated, a percentage

on the cost of the works they

initiate.

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Yours faithfully,

PAUL REILLY,

President,

World Crafts Council,

House of Lords,

December 28.

Yours faithfully,

J. W. P. HUBBARD,

8 Shirley Drive,

Worthing,

West Sussex.

December 28.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### The Soviet military invasion of Afghanistan

From Mr Christopher Dickinson



الجامعة

N  
er**SPORT**

Tennis

**British team, far from being old, have not yet come of age**By Rex Bellamy  
Tennis Correspondent

**Mark Cox and David Lloyd won only two sets from three matches in the Braniff Airways doubles tournament at Olympia. Yesterday they were beaten 7-6, 6-7, 6-7, 6-2 by the Guilloulin twins, Tim and Tom. Both partnerships had already lost their chance of qualifying for today's semi-final round. Cox and Lloyd, aged 36 and 32 respectively, modestly discussed whether it was time to make way for younger men in Britain's Davis Cup team.**

**Why should they? Two of the finest teams in the world, Bob Hewitt and Frew McMillan and Tony Riesen and Stewart Stewart, have been beaten. A third, Bob Lutz and Stan Smith, did not much younger. Unlike Cox and Lloyd, all have been doubles experts at the highest international level throughout their careers.**

**Cox and Lloyd are relatively new to Davis Cup. Lloyd said yesterday: "You don't want to be so young in doubles. It does not take much out of you physically, though your reactions may not be as good. The difference between the British team and the various opponents at Olympia was, he reckoned, "very small—but they're playing that little bit better. We're hitting the ball well but we're not hard right."**

**Cox said all the players they had played had raised the quality of their game when they needed to. "Today we were much more competitive. We started to get into it. Tim's serve a little bit. But we had a disastrous start to the fourth set. And the weather didn't seem to have the knock of the tie-breaker."**

**And the Davis Cup? Cox**

**grinned. "Emotionally, I've retired. It's time for someone else. But there is something addictive about the Davis Cup. You hate to lose, but you want to play."**

**Cox and Lloyd should stop worrying about Olympia. Yesterday they were beaten 7-6, 6-7, 6-7, 6-2 by the Guilloulin twins, Tim and Tom. Both partnerships had**

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**And the Davis Cup? Cox**



Bending over backwards for Britain before bowing out: David Lloyd and Mark Cox.

**Football****Cup aspirants must face the great leveller, mud**By Norman Fox  
Football Correspondent

The thoughts of Wembley in springtime warms the ambitions of everyone involved in the third round of the FA Cup this afternoon. At this stage, one as old as the competition itself, is not who will win in May but who among the great names will fall flat in the mid-winter mud.

Mud, there will be on most pitches, now that the temperature has risen to the point where the frost that threatened to mar the programme. But the sun came too late to save Blackburn's home tie with Fulham and there will be a few pitch inspections which won't be able to withstand the weight of snow.

This is the round that concerns the wider picture, the more numerous to the decline of the first division professionals. There are four complete outsiders left, although Northwich Victoria can still join them if they come through their second round tie with Wigan Athletic.

Midweek survivors are Altrincham, who have home advantage against Orient, Harlow (away to Leicester City), Yeovil, hoping to push Norwich City all the way down their famous slope, and Cheltenham, at home to Cambridge. The last, long ago, saw the power of the first division would crush the spirits of all outsiders whether within or without the league, but defiance is the essence of the Cup.

The final itself has seen 29 different teams since the war, with 14 wins, 14 losses and 11 draws. Arsenal (six) and Liverpool (five) leading the appearances. Two of those regular visitors met at Wembley last year and produced an outstanding finish. Arsenal winning, with a goal scored when United still seemed to be celebrating an equaliser.

Arsenal and Manchester United begin again with tricky hurdles. Arsenal, having fallen to the Swindon Town in the League Cup, will be looking to the FA Cup club who can use the psychology of history. In 1927 Cardiff beat Arsenal to become the only club to take the FA Cup out of England. Much as common sense says that the present Cardiff are no more than an average second division team while Arsenal are still hoping to catch

Four strong, yet disparate, characters spiced a match that spread before us all the joyousness and swift repartee that is not peculiar to doubles, is more welcome in singles. Like the attendance figures, the improvement in the tennis was remarkable evident while Hewitt and McMillan were both through their careers.

"We are not certain that is the right solution to bad behav-

**Motor racing****Last year's lessons help production of new car**

By John Blundsen

Bristol Rovers 1

Aston Villa 2

Macclesfield 2

Newcastle 2

Sheffield 2

Southend 2

Walsall 2

West Ham 2

Wolverhampton 2

Yarmouth 2

Zagreb 2

Arrows 2

Aston Villa 2

Bristol Rovers 2

Celtic 2

Newcastle 2

Sheffield 2

Southend 2

Walsall 2

West Ham 2

Wolverhampton 2

Yarmouth 2

Arrows 2

Aston Villa 2

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Arrows 2

Aston Villa 2

Bristol Rovers 2

Celtic 2

Newcastle 2



Personal investment and finance, pages 18 and 19

# THE TIMES

## BUSINESS NEWS

■ Stock markets
FT Ind 413.9 up 7.0
FT Gilts 65.09 up 0.39
■ Sterling
\$2.3280 down 18 pence
Index 70.3 down 0.2
■ Dollar
Index 84.4 down 0.1
■ Gold
\$390 an ounce down \$40
■ 3-month money
Inter-bank 16.12/16 to 16.13/16
Euro 5 14.9/16 to 14.11/16

### IN BRIEF

## Nigeria puts up price of crude oil to \$30 a barrel

Nigeria has increased the price of its crude oil from \$27 to \$30 a barrel. Mr Fesus Marinho, managing director of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, said:

He said the price rise, effective from December 17, was intended to restore the "international competitiveness" of Nigeria's crude.

There had been reports that the country had increased its oil price to nearly \$35 a barrel, but Mr Marinho denied this.

He said the oil increase would not affect the price of petroleum products sold to Nigerian consumers.

### Clothing plant to close

All 900 workers at the John Collier clothing factory in Middlesbrough were told yesterday that they will lose their jobs when the plant closes in April because of falling orders. John Collier is part of the United Drapery stores group.

### US money supply up

The United States basic money supply-M1—rose to a seasonally adjusted \$381,700m (about £173,500m) in the week ended December 26, from \$379,700m the previous week. The broader money supply, known as M2, rose to an average of \$849,500m in the week from \$847,000 a week ago, the Federal Reserve reported.

### Textile talks resume

Negotiators from Hongkong and America will resume talks in Hongkong next week on the 1980 application of the bilateral textile agreement. Hongkong is expected to restrain flexibility and to shift some exports from other years into 1980.

### US mission to Tokyo

America plans to send Mr Robert Hormats, deputy international trade negotiator, to visit Japanese government officials in Tokyo to head off friction in trade relations. He will confer on the large increase in Japan's exports of cars and steel products.

### Dearer smoking

Carreras Rothmans announced rises of 1p for a packet of 20 cigarettes on the recommended retail price of some brands to take effect next Wednesday. Some pipe tobacco prices rise by up to 1p on 25g packs.

### Steel output jumps

European steel production rose to its highest level for three years last year according to estimates published yesterday by the EEC Commission. Overall Community production was estimated to have totalled 140 million tonnes compared with 132 million tonnes in 1978 and 127 million tonnes in 1977.

### Swedish reserves fall

The Bank of Sweden's foreign exchange reserves ended December at 15,210m Kronor (£1,653m) down from the November figure of 15,580m Kronor (£1,693m) and 18,380m Kronor (£1,997m) at the end of 1978, a net drop of 3,170m Kronor (£344m).

### Wall Street up

On the New York Stock Exchange yesterday the Dow Jones industrial average climbed 8.53 to 828.4. Against the SDR the US dollar was 1.3218 and the pound was 0.59120.

### PRICE CHANGES

Rises
Copper J. 12p to 100p
Fisher J. 10p to 243p
Hammert "A" 20p to 715p
ICL 10p to 458p
Metal Box 12p to 224p

Falls
Barfusstein 551 to 5271
Elsberg 38c to 380c
Groenewiel 40c to 700c
Kloof 54c to 533c
Minorco 24p to 250p

### THE POUND

Bank buys	Bank sells
2.05	1.99
29.20	27.20
66.75	63.25
2.68	2.61
12.39	11.44
8.60	8.58
9.28	9.19
4.01	3.79
59.00	54.00
11.14	10.80
1850.00	1765.00
557.00	532.00
4.42	4.19

Rates for small denominations bank purchases and sales, compiled yesterday by Barclays' "Bank International" Ltd. Different rates apply to commercial, foreign and other foreign currency business.

## West Germany asks bankers to support list of sanctions against Iran

From Peter Norman

Brussels, Jan 4  
The West German Government has proposed that the country's banks should adopt a four-point list of sanctions against Iran in support of the United States struggle to secure the release of the American hostages in the Tehran embassy.

The measures, drawn from a long list of suggestions presented to the Bonn government at the beginning of last month by a visiting American delegation, were outlined last week to representatives of the nation's banking industry, government sources disclosed today.

The Swiss National Bank in Zurich also confirmed that it has had at least two intensive contacts with the large Swiss banks at the highest level to achieve a measure of solidarity with the Americans.

Dr Günter Oberl, a state secretary at the Bonn finance ministry, met the German bankers a week ago and suggested that they should grant new credits to Iranian state or quasi-state institutions.

He also proposed that no new signs of recognition should be opened for the official Iranian bodies at German banks;

that there should be no increase in existing non-dollar deposits held by Iranian state or banking institutions; and that in the event of an Iranian borrower defaulting or otherwise not complying with the terms of an existing credit, the banks should not hesitate to declare it in default.

It has been proposed that the banks adopt the measures on a voluntary basis. According to

Bonn government sources, the package represents the farthest that the West German Government felt it could go in recommending financial sanctions from a long list of proposals produced by Mr Richard Cooper and Mr Anthony Solomon, the American junior ministers who visited Bonn last month.

However, it appears that German bankers are not keen to accept the measures. Last week's meeting was the last of several and, although the government sources said it passed off more smoothly than earlier meetings, it is clear that the various banking federations have strong reservations.

First there is an apparent difference in views over when the sanctions should be applied. The government apparently believes that the banks should be implementing the four points of resolution 417 in the United Nations Security Council.

He also proposed that no new signs of recognition should be opened for the official Iranian bodies at German banks;

that there should be no increase in existing non-dollar deposits held by Iranian state or banking institutions; and that in the event of an Iranian borrower defaulting or otherwise not complying with the terms of an existing credit, the banks should not hesitate to declare it in default.

This empowers the federal government to restrict legally established transactions with institutions abroad in the interests of preventing a disturbance of the peaceful coexistence of the peoples of the world or

of the external relations of the federal republic.

Bankers are also worried that any action they might be forced to take against Iran might have a negative effect on their business with other Third World nations and in particular reduce their role in handling the oil wealth of the Gulf states.

It appears that the authorities in Zurich have not gone as far in accommodating American wishes as those in Bonn. The Swiss National Bank did, however, inform the banking community that the American大使 with whom to the Zurich taking over the Iranian business now referred to banks in the United States.

Ronald Pullen, Banking Correspondent, writes: Anxious to discourage speculation that similar measures to those suggested to the German banks were contemplated in the United Kingdom, both the Bank of England and senior clearing bankers said last night that no contingency plan had been drawn up to govern British attitudes to Iran in the event of United Nations economic sanctions.

Despite continuing discussions between the clearers and the Bank of England over Iranian requests to withdraw funds from London, the hope is that banking relationships with Iran should remain as normal as possible.

The Bank of England continues to insist that any disputes between Iran and the British banking system should be settled through the courts rather than by official action,

should be able to pick up what is required.

But there are doubts whether it is possible to offer the volumes Iran appears to have on the spot market without reducing the price below the \$30 agreed in Shell, BP and Japanese contracts. These contracts total about 720,000 barrels a day.

President Carter's embargo gives Iran an extra 700,000 barrels a day and there are few obvious buyers for all Iran's available oil.

The obvious conclusion is that Iran plans to produce at nearer 2 million barrels a day. If so oil analysts still estimate that there is sufficient oil in the world system, if Saudi Arabia continues to produce at 3 million and 3.5 million barrels a day, the oil will flow into the system and BP and Shell

will now be able to pick up what is required.

By Richard Allen

C. T. Bowring has apparently failed in his attempt to use the courts to ward off an American takeover bid from Marsh & McLennan, the American insurance broking company.

Datum UK, which has remained quiet in recent months over the issue of Japanese car imports, yesterday voiced bitter complaints against Britain's Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders for causing hardship to its dealers and giving the United Kingdom market "on a platter" to other foreign manufacturers.

If sales had gone to BL as expected to 1.5 million last year, there could be less cause for complaint, the spokesman said.

Clifford Webb writes: Imported cars could account for 75 per cent of the British market by April if the steel strike lasts for a month, we claimed last night. This compares with the importers' present 60 per cent market share.

If sales had gone to BL as expected to 1.5 million last year, there could be less cause for complaint, the spokesman said.

Marsh announced that it was considering a bid after negotiations on the premium pooling plan.

A similar action by insurance brokers Bowring has yet to be heard in the High Court in London.

If the United States court action had been successful, Marsh could have been severely limited in a takeover bid by Security & Exchange Commission rules which demand full disclosure on the part of the bidder.

Mars announced that it was considering a bid after negotiations on the premium pooling plan.

Bowring is still free to pursue an action against Marsh on the use of confidential information but it cannot now prevent the American group launching the bid.

Speculation on the stock market that Combined English Stores is about to make a major disposal was dismissed yesterday by Mr Murray Gordon, the company's chairman.

"Not only are we not selling any of our subsidiaries but we are about to make a couple of purchases," he said.

In the market it is being suggested that the group is having problems with Harry Fenton and Kendall & Sons, its fashion outlets, after the difficult autumn and winter seasons experienced by most companies in this sector.

Wallis Fashions, a similar retail outlet, had to be rescued by Sears Holdings at the end of last year after heavy losses and both Fenton and Kendall & Sons are thought to have been losing money in the current year.

For the past two months there has been much speculation that Fenton was up for sale. This has been denied by Mr Gordon.

Just before Christmas Mr Edward de Winter, joint managing director of CES, announced his resignation.

Although no comment or reason was given at the time, he admitted last night that "irreconcilable differences of opinion culminating in a flam-

## Issue of £1,000m tap stock faces cool reception in market

By John Whitmore

The government is to continue its funding programme through the £1,000m issue of a new gilt-edged stock, Exchequer 14 per cent 1984.

The stock will be offered for sale by tender next week, with application lists closing on Thursday morning.

At the minimum tender price of £96.14 per cent, the running yield would be 14.51 per cent and the gross redemption yield 13.13 per cent.

Initial market reaction was cool, and many stocks lost at least part of good gains scored earlier in the day. Long dated stocks, for instance, often finished only 50p higher, having been up to 100p higher ahead of the Bank of England announcement.

The general feeling was that there would have to be appreciable improvement in the news

background for the stock to attract any substantial application next week. A limited initial response to the issue may not however, worry the authorities.

Although they have not achieved a vast amount of funding so far in the January banking month, they appear to be keener at this stage simply to see that there is an adequate supply of stock available over the next few weeks.

This is because substantial sums should become available for reinvestment. Large interest payments on existing gilt-edged stocks fall due in the last two weeks of January, and it seems reasonable that most holders of the Treasury 9 per cent convertible stock, due for conversion or redemption on March 3, will opt to take the cash.

The rights, which offer conversion into £10 nominal of 9 per cent stock redeemable in

the year 2000, cannot be considered attractive to most holders, and the Bank of England is counselling investors who feel uncertain to seek professional advice.

The generally firmer tone in the gilt market yesterday reflected hopes that the steel dispute might be settled relatively quickly and without too many damaging consequences.

Even so, the mood of the market remains cautious in the light of the international uncertainty and the expectation that it may be some weeks before domestic interest rates can start to fall significantly.

This mood of caution was also seen in the weekly Treasury Bill tender. For the second week running, the average rate of discount, at which bills were allotted edged up marginally. The rise this week was from 15.8421 to 15.8434 per cent.

On Monday in Winona, Indiana, Ford will defend the charges arising from that crash.

A grand jury has in essence acquitted America's second-largest car maker of building and selling a car with the knowledge that its petrol tank posed a hazard in a rear-end collision, and of then doing nothing about it. The company, under United States government pressure, later recalled about 1.5 million Pintos for modification.

A small band of volunteer legal experts and a part-time county prosecutor will be opposing the car manufacturers.

The issues stretch far beyond the safety of design of the Pinto, United States' Ford's smallest car.

The trial is bound to raise important questions about the legal liability that any manufacturer bears for its products, and could influence thinking in consumer-product industries throughout the United States.

If Ford lost the case the maximum fine of \$30,000 would look paltry beside the civil lawsuits to follow, which already total more than \$1,000



EDITED BY MARGARET STONE

BY ROSS

Travel

## Your holiday cash should go further

If there is one consolation to be expected in the coming year of recession, higher prices and low wage rises, it is that millions of Britons should feel a little better off during their annual summer pilgrimage to the world's sun-spots.

Thanks to the continuing strength of the pound against the currencies of most of the leading holiday countries, British tourists ought to find that despite inflation the cost in sterling of enjoying the delights of the bars and night clubs of the Costa del Sol or the Venetian Riviera is the same or cheaper than last year.

Exchange rates, of course, can fluctuate greatly, but it is generally accepted that the pounds in the pockets of Britain's four million package tour holidaymakers will retain their relatively high spending power.

In the last 12 months the pound has appreciated against most foreign currencies, including the Japanese yen, by an average of 6.4 per cent.

The table shows that sterling has increased its value against the currencies of Britons' favourite holiday countries to an extent that will absorb local inflation and, particularly in the case of the United States, provides a little extra spending money.

All these figures, however, represent only part of the package tour price picture for 1980. Prices quoted by the inclusive tour operators are, on average, 10.15 per cent up on last season, in part due to rapidly rising hotel and fuel costs. Hotel workers in countries like Spain and Portugal have become more militant and their higher wages are reflected in increased accommodation charges.

The one big uncertainty this year will be the surcharge that operators will slap on their customers. Last year, holiday companies guaranteed that the surcharge would not exceed £5 per person per week; this year it is a maximum of £10.

But by most standards, a two-week inclusive holiday in a Mediterranean resort hotel is still remarkable value for money. A cursory scan of the brochures shows that a fortnight in August on, say, Spain's Costa Brava, in Majorca or Greece can be bought for £150-£250 per person, and in many cases children's rates are much lower.

According to the Confederation of British Industry's latest

Edward Townsend

HOW THE POUND HAS RISEN IN VALUE			
	Start 1979	Start 1980	% change
Denmark—krona	10.4	11.9	+14.4
France—franc	8.5	8.9	+4.7
Germany—D-mark	3.7	3.8	+2.7
Greece—drachma	7.30	8.53	+16.8
Italy—lire	1,695.0	1,784.5	+5.2
Japan—yen	326.0	323.3	+2.4
Portugal—escudos	83.0	110.6	+34.4
Spain—pesetas	142.8	146.7	+2.7
Switzerland—francs	3.3	3.5	+6.1
U.S. dollars	2.0	2.2	+10.0
Yugoslavia—dinar	41.0	42.0	+2.4

## Investor's week

## Equities and gilts keep their heads down

It was not just the new year gin and Drambuie that made us feel liverish. A few brokers happily helped Arabs out of dollars and into gold, silver and platinum but many more had bought for their comfort.

They feel like little orphans in the wet and wintry cold with noses pressed to the window pane. Imagine their yearning as they gazed across a cheerful room at a crackling fire rising higher and higher.

Indeed, most of us were so miserable that we had no stomach for the usual new year boomer in share tips. Like Hume's *Treatise of Human Nature*, they "fell dead-born from the press". Over the week, the FT index waded from 417.8 to 413.9.

The trouble is that the stock market is now so professional; and professionals tend to agree with each other. All agree that shares will go down in the next few months; and nearly all maintain that by next December they will well up on the year. But, if so, why buy even good shares now, when they can be bought later on more cheaply?

It is not as if our investment world has changed great deal in one week, despite gyrations in gold.

So Johnson & Firth Brown, in steel, point out that profits of £10.2m in the 15 months to last September would, allowing for inflation, have been losses of £4.5m; so Fedens, the lorry people, blame the engineering

Peter Wainwright

MAIN CHANGES OF THE WEEK			
Year's high	Year's low	Company	Change
419p	178p	Con Gold Fields	RISES 30p to 412p Gold rise
260p	183p	Johnson Matthey	25p to 235p Gold, silver, refining
517p	551p	Lebanon	\$2 to \$16 Bullion
276p	168p	Fedens	8p to 16p John Bentley new chmn
17p	8p	Tebbit	5p to 190p Cheap buying

## FALLS

148p 98p Bowring CT 10p to 122p US bid hopes recede

142p 75p Electronic Rentals 9p to 88p Int figs disappoint

248p 140p Fairview Estates 15p to 180p Housebuilding fears

64p 27p Fodens 3p to 35p Half-time loss

463p 315p Taylor Woodrow 12p to 319p Contracting fears

## Investor's crossword

The Christmas Investor's Crossword proved amazingly popular, particularly if one assumes that there must be at least ten hopefuls attempting a crossword to each successful addict who actually completes it.

Not that all those who did manage to beat the postal system and return the finished crossword to us by yesterday were correct: "4 down" tripped up a number of contestants. The winner, drawn from the bag yesterday afternoon, is Mr D. E. Samuel of Notting Hill, London. A £10

## FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

## Booker McConnell to pay £10m for K & T

By Rosemary Unsworth  
Booker McConnell, the international food, engineering and trading group, yesterday completed its acquisition of Keayley Tonge, a food wholesaling business owned by International Stores, a subsidiary of BAT Industries.

Booker is paying about £10m in cash for the operation, which will be based on K & T's net tangible assets as at December 29, 1979, and an agreed valuation of its freehold and leasehold properties which will be acquired directly from International Stores. Booker is paying about £10m in cash for the operation, which will be based on K & T's net tangible assets as at December 29, 1979, and an agreed valuation of its freehold and leasehold properties which will be acquired directly from International Stores. Booker is paying about £10m in cash for the operation, which will be based on K & T's net tangible assets as at December 29, 1979, and an agreed valuation of its freehold and leasehold properties which will be acquired directly from International Stores. 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## FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

## Briefly

## Wall Street

## EUROPEAN OPTIONS EXCHANGE

A delegation will be visiting London later this month as the first step towards encouraging British investors to deal through the EOE.

## EDITH—ICFC

In a joint deal with the Industrial and Commercial Finance Corporation and Estate Duties Investment Trust (EDITH), 35 per cent of the family trust, which Son, London (Holdings) has been sold by the family trust for tax planning purposes. Total value of the transaction is £168,500, equally shared between ICFC and EDITH.

**CRELTON HOLDINGS**

Crelton Holdings' name is now officially Mainline Electronic.

## WEST COAST TRUST

Since ending of exchange controls, West Coast and Texas Regional Investment Trust has repaid various loans, drawings made under its multi-million-pound loan facility, cutting outstanding loans at end-Dec. to £600,000 (United States).

## A. E. AND C. TRUST

Atlanta, Baltimore and Chicago Regional Investment Trust has repaid drawings of £800,000 (United States), reducing loans at end-Dec. to £600,000.

## SEEKERS INTERNATIONAL

Seekers offer for the 750,000 ordinary shares of David Evans has been accepted by holders of 100 per cent of the issued share capital.

## WEBSTERS

In accordance with the special resolution passed at the 1979 AGM, Websters Publications Limited changed its name to "the Websters Group Limited" from January 1.

## BROCKHOUSE

In his annual report, the chairman, Mr R. J. H. Parkes, tells shareholders that in value terms, the group's general order-book is up on this time last year. But the market place is still suffering from the aftermath of the engineers' strike. Nevertheless, barring widespread national disruption, the year ahead, Brockhouse is set to pursue the profit improvement denied it in 1979.

## HAMMERSON PROPERTY

Take-over of Reunion completed on December 28. Acceptances received under rights issue for 1.2m ordinary shares (£98.8 per share) of 0.5m "A" shares (£8.1 per cent).

## INV TRUST OF GUERNSEY

Net asset value on December 31, 1979, was 2040 a share.

## LRC INTERNATIONAL

Mr D. H. Howard, director, has acquired 50,000 ord. shares. Sir Edward Howard, director, has acquired 130,000 ord. shares.

## INVESTMENT

No Int (same). Pre-tax profit half year to September 30 £163,000 (£152,000). Tax £57,000 (£55,000).

## STAVERY ZIGOMALA

Trading profit for half-year to September 30 £12,000. Income in same period £15,000 (£11,000) and unfranked less bank interest paid £1,000 (£422). Pre-tax profit £16,000 (£15,000).

## FAIRDALE TEXTILES

For purely mechanical reasons company will not be able to announce by January 7 its results for first half of current year. They will be available before the end of the month.

## Options

Activity among traded options resumed at a brisk pace yesterday morning with over 500 contracts being completed by mid-morning. Business, however, faded a little in the afternoon, and by the close totalled 856 compared with 817 yesterday.

Consolidated Gold Fields once again featured prominently accounting for 805 contracts as dealers reported active two-way dealing which included the new series of 420p January, February and April's which began yesterday. Profit taking was also encountered but this was mostly cancelled out by buyers coming in at the low end.

Business among traditional options was reported described as moderate with mines and oil shares attracting most attention. Doubles were completed in Smith Bros, Poseidon and Consolidated Gold Fields.

## Bank Base Rates

Bank of England Minimum Lending Rate 17c. Last changed 15.1.79. Interest on Excess Reserves 15c. Discount Rate 15c. Bank Fixed 15c-16c.

Treasury Bills 16c-17c.

Buying 1-month 15c-16c; 3 months 15c-16c; 6 months 15c-16c; 12 months 15c-16c.

Primary Bank Bills 16c-17c. Treasury Bills 16c-17c.

Secondary Bills 16c-17c.

Securities 15c-16c. Dearer 15c-16c; 12 months 15c-16c.

Local Authorised Markets 15c-16c.

2 days 15c-16c; 1 week 15c-16c; 1 month 15c-16c.

Interbank Market 15c-16c.

Weekend Openings 15c-16c.

1 week 15c-16c; 1 month 15c-16c.

1 month 15c-16c.

London Merchantile 15c-16c.

Midland Bank 17c.

Nat Westminster 17c.

Rossmaster 17c.

TSB 17c.

Williams and Glyn's 17c.

\* 7 day deposit on sums of £10,000 and under 15c.; over £25,000 15c.; over £50,000 15c.

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# Stock Exchange Prices

## Technical rally

**ACCOUNT DAYS:** Dealings Began, Dec 28. Dealings End, Jan 11. § Contango Day, Jan 14. Settlement Day, Jan 21.

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

Prices on this page are now supplied by Exchange Telegraph's Epic system and are the last prices available from London stock market dealers yesterday evening. Various indices produced by The Times, including the Index of 150 industrial stocks, are being reviewed and recalculated to cover the period of non-publication.

